

Oil company denies gas leak warnings

Fierce new blaze and weather halt salvage

By David Sapsted

Operators of Piper Alpha oil platform acted last night to staunch claims that they had ignored warnings of an imminent disaster as a new fire aboard the rig halted salvage work.

Occidental executives countered reports that a gas leak had been reported 48 hours before the blast last week and that welding operations had been cancelled as a result.

Mr John Brading, the company's UK chief executive, said no such reports, allegedly made by a welder who died in the tragedy to a rig safety officer, had been received by the company's head-

By David Sapsted

quarters in Aberdeen, as would have been normal. He also denied suggestions that the platform's gas detection and alarm system had been turned off in the hours immediately preceding Wednesday's explosion.

However, Mr Gene Grogan, the company's engineering vice-president, conceded that it was possible that the system had been shut down in the area of the gas conservation

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module - but not the gas conservation module where the leak is believed to have occurred - because the unit had been switched off for routine maintenance.

This maintenance, involving the replacement of a chemical filter, may also have been the reason why there was a report of men operating on the rig wearing breathing apparatus, he said.

Mr Grogan said that men working on the unit might have done this as a precaution because there could be a release of hydrogen sulphide when the unit was being

shut down.

There seemed little doubt, however, that the inquiry would pay close attention to the allegations, along with those of corrosion and "blowby" construction of the living quarters, made by Mr John Donaldson, former Occidental safety manager.

"The inquiry will also be asked to look at Lord Cullen, a Scottish High Court judge, who last night predicted the inquiry would uncover 'a whole series of unsatisfactory practices' and demanded a voice in future on safety committees governing the platforms.

They called for the publication of the 1984 report of an inquiry into an explosion on the platform.

Conditions on the Piper Alpha yesterday were reported by the company as "hot and smoky".

A new well fire had flared up on the west side of the drilling module overnight -

the only part of the rig still standing - and had continued to burn throughout the day.

The two members of Mr Red Adair's fire-fighting team managed to board the platform yesterday morning. In the afternoon, however, the arduous task of removing debris from the platform now sloping at an angle of 45 degrees, had to be abandoned as southerly winds reaching thirty knots built up and Mr Adair decreed it was too dangerous.

Clearance of the debris is the first essential step towards gaining access to the 36 wells on board to enable them to be capped.

Mr Adair, who is supervising the operation from the support vessel, Tharos, alongside and who went on board Piper Alpha on Saturday evening, said: "What is going to help us more than anything is a good wind."

He added: "This is a different situation from most we have been on. With half the platform gone like it has, it is a little difficult to get in there and work."

"The deck is at a 45 degree angle and it is real slick so we are having to use ropes to let ourselves down and back and forth to work."

In case capping the wells on the rig proves impossible, Occidental has ordered the drilling vessel, Kingsnorth UK, to the Piper field to stand by.

The vessel could drill a relief well through which mud could be pumped to cut off the flow to the platform.

The disaster on Piper Alpha has led not only to the Piper field being closed, but has also

Continued on page 20, col 8



Lord Cullen: Appointed to head disaster inquiry.

Looking up to second-place Mansell



Focus of all eyes: Nigel Mansell with young admirers at Silverstone, where he finished second in the British Grand Prix.

Fury at Kinnock attack on Thatcher in Zambia

By Philip Webster in Livingstone, Zambia, and Nicholas Wood in London

Mr Neil Kinnock was bitterly denounced last night by senior Conservatives after using his tour of the frontline states as a platform for an astonishing assault on Mrs Thatcher's opposition to economic sanctions against South Africa.

Tearing up the long-established convention that politicians on overseas visits do not criticise their own government, the Labour leader accused the Prime Minister of being disingenuous, lacking moral obligation and of being introverted.

He implied that she cared little about the problems of the region and suggested that she was held in contempt even by President Botha in Pretoria.

In London, the Tory reaction was swift and contemptuous, with Downing Street saying that Mrs Thatcher would regard Mr Kinnock's remarks with disdain.

A spokesman said that she had scrupulously observed the convention when in opposition and that throughout nine years in power and thousands of miles of foreign travel she had never taken advantage of her position to attack her political rivals at home.

Ministers and Conservative backbenchers poured scorn on the Labour leader, dismissing his remarks as laughable,

and saying that the manner in which they were made was a disgrace.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said: "This shows that Mr Kinnock, who has opted out of effective leadership of the Labour Party for the delights of foreign travel, has lost all grip on political reality - his criticism of the British Government breaks with all normal conventions and is an absolute disgrace."

Mr Michael Mates, Tory chairman of the all-party Commons defence committee, said politics was the worse

for the convention being breached by "Kinnock's ravings".

He added: "At least he's found one Labour policy on which they all agree."

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, said that "like her or not, Mrs Thatcher is Prime Minister of all Britain while Mr Kinnock is not even leader of all the Labour Party".

Mr Kinnock's attack on Mrs Thatcher came as he spoke to the international press as he stood on the north Zambian border gazing at military in-

stallations in the Caprivi Strip, in South African-occupied Namibia.

His outburst comes after his serious breach of convention in New York last year when he described Mrs Thatcher as President Reagan's "poodle".

And on this trip, with his totally opposed view to the Government on sanctions, it was inevitable.

He said that Mrs Thatcher was not sufficiently spurred by any feelings of moral obligation or deep-rooted sense or understanding of the potential for catastrophe in southern Africa to take the necessary action against South Africa.

"I think to her that this part of the world is a matter of small moment compared with countries a very long distance away. She has a very introverted attitude."

Mr Kinnock said: "It is not just a matter of ethical persuasion or moral commitment that makes people want to bring an end to apartheid. It is the knowledge that it will continue to cause serious disruption, poverty, famine and misery on people outside South Africa for as long as it continues."

"Mrs Thatcher gives no sign in public or in the privacy of Commonwealth summits of appreciating the gravity of the

Continued on page 20, col 2

Easy win for Senna in the rain

By David Walker

Ayrton Senna of Brazil continued McLaren's domination of this season's world Formula One championship with a crushing 23-second victory in a rain-affected British Grand Prix at Silverstone yesterday.

But Nigel Mansell of Britain, winner of the race for the past two years, caused a big surprise by taking second place. Mansell had failed to finish in the seven races so far this season but in the naturally aspirated Williams Judd he relished the wet conditions to overshadow the more powerful turbo-charged cars, apart from the winner.

Senna made light of the appalling conditions to storm to his first British Grand Prix win - his fourth win of the season and tenth of his career. Third off the grid, he passed the early leader, Gerhard Berger, who started in pole position, on the 14th lap.

It was the eighth consecutive win for the McLaren-Honda team although Alain Prost, Senna's teammate and winner of the other four races this season, had to retire with clutch trouble on the 25th lap.

Mansell, starting eleventh on the grid, worked his way through the field impressively to chalk up his first championship points of the season.

Third place went to Alessandro Nannini of Italy.

Student finance reforms delayed

By David Tytler

Education Editor

The Government has abandoned its plans to revolutionize student finance within the next 12 months. It had intended to publish a White Paper before the end of this month with legislation to follow in the autumn.

But Treasury and education ministers failed to agree on the level of grants and how loans should be arranged; and the Government has a crowded legislative programme, so there is now no possibility of finding government time for legislation in the next parliamentary session.

There are no immediate plans to set a new date for legislation, although Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, is determined to change fundamentally the way students are financed before the end of this Parliament.

He is anxious to avoid the humiliation faced by Sir Keith Joseph, who had to scrap plans to cut student grants and increase parental contributions in 1984 after an outcry from middle-class parents.

The Government is determined at least to curb the spiralling costs of student grants, which now cost the

taxpayer £761 million a year, although only 30 per cent of the 400,000 students in England and Wales receive the full grant of £1,972 outside London and £2,330 in the capital.

The latest Department of Education survey - headed by Mr Robert Jackson, the minister responsible for higher education - contains widespread reforms which, it was hoped, would lead to the biggest shake-up in student finance since the war.

The Cabinet is committed to loans and there is general agreement that for the first time students should take personal responsibility for financing their time at university.

Mr Baker failed last March to get Cabinet approval after his scheme to reduce grants by £100 while giving every student an annual £1,000 loan, was blocked by the Treasury.

The education department's scheme centres on Mr Jackson's proposal to freeze grants for the foreseeable future, with parents and students topping up the money using special rate bank loans.

In the meantime, a working party of vice-chancellors, considering submissions from Dr Graham Hills of Strathclyde and Dr Anthony Kelly of Surrey, is due to report on alternative funding of universities in September.

WIN £118,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

With two weekly prize winners (see page 3), Portfolio Accumulator stands at £118,000 today.

TOMORROW

Ludovic Kennedy interviews Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, on the upsurge of violence.

IN PART 2

Football crisis

The future of the Football League as a 92-club structure will be decided this week amid fears that the top 10 clubs are too committed to a television deal with ITV to avoid a split. Page 39

Cram flops

Steve Cram trailed in fourth in the 800 metres at Nice, but it was a great day for the Scots, with Tom McKean winning the event and Yvonne Murray striding to victory in the 3,000 metres. Page 40

MGM sale

Hollywood's Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film studio and its roaring lion trademark are being sold in a \$200 million (£117 million) deal. Page 21

Exam results

Degrees awarded by the University of East Anglia will be carried tomorrow. Loughborough and Oxford results appear today. Page 35

Kuwait stake

Kuwait may reduce its 22 per cent holding in BP if market conditions are right. Page 21

Trade drive

A task force has been set up to help British businessmen export to Japan. Page 21

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New plea for Armenians

From A Correspondent, Moscow

A huge meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, attended by people from three Soviet Republics, heard a call supporting self-determination for the Armenian minority in a fourth republic, Azerbaijan. It was learnt in Moscow yesterday.

This is the clearest sign yet that concern for the Armenian cause has spread to regions far distant from the Transcaucasus. The Armenian issue was raised by a group from Byelorussia, which borders Poland, and was heard by Estonians as well as Lithuanians.

The rally on Saturday, attended by more than 100,000 people, was organized by the Movement to Support Perestroika, a semi-official grouping of intellectuals and dissidents who claim to support Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's calls for the liberalization of society. However some conservatives have condemned the group as a front for Lithuanian nationalists.

One member of the Perestroika group said it was the first time in Vilnius that members from unofficial groups outside of Lithuania shared a speaking platform with Communist Party officials.

Besides official Communist Party speakers reporting back about the 19th Communist Party conference which ended in Moscow July 1, representatives of two unofficial

Washington - President Reagan, who has often urged the Soviet Union to allow free emigration, is concerned that the US Embassy in Moscow has stopped issuing visas for three months because of lack of funds to process increased applications. As many as 4,500 people, mainly Armenians, may be affected.

Normally nationalist causes rarely earn outspoken support from outside national borders. However, witnesses said the response to the call was muted and few in the crowd showed any outward signs of support for the call, listening instead in silence.

Lithuanian Central Committee

Continued on page 20, col 5

Charities' politics under scrutiny

By David Walker, Public Affairs Correspondent

The Prime Minister has ordered a list of voluntary groups and charities receiving substantial sums of public money. In what could lead to a clampdown on the amount of political activity charities can undertake.

The demand from 10 Downing Street comes after Mr Robin Guthrie, the chief charity commissioner, said in a recent lecture that charities should be careful in making political statements or getting involved in political activity.

A White Paper on charities is due in January and it is likely that Mrs Margaret Thatcher will be involved in its drafting.

Her advisers are understood to have an informal list of charities which they suspect of being on the left. It is headed by Shelter, the housing group.

The Charity Commission, which has extensive power to discipline charities which have strayed into politics, said no complaints about the hous-

ing charity's politics have been received from the public. Also on the list is War on Want - which has a separately organized non-charitable campaigning arm - and several of the Rowntree trusts. Those receive no public money directly but would be affected by limits on what charities can do while retaining tax privileges.

Government support for the voluntary sector includes the £19 million spent in 1986-87 by the Home Office on such bodies as community service volunteers and the £35 million spent by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Miss Sheila McKechnie, director of Shelter, said she was surprised that her organization was under scrutiny, because the Department of the Environment had been "absolutely scrupulous" in ensuring that the funds it provided were used strictly for the purpose they were given.

Coincidentally, Reece was on duty in 1984 when Flitcroft again attempted to earn himself a place in the Open - "It seemed like the only way to play with Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus," he said - by posing as a professional from Switzerland called Gerald Hoppy.

Open qualifiers, page 39

Bo's whack at the Open crashes out at the third

By Mitchell Platt

Bo Brit did not really look the part of a potential Open golf champion as he arrived at the first tee at Fairhaven, Lancashire, yesterday. He was dressed in black jeans, his footwear resembled cowboy boots, and he was carrying his own bag and clubs. He looked even less likely at the third hole where, after eight thwacks and swishes, his ball was still lodged in a bush - and an

Club was compelled to step in and persuade Brit that, well, to put it gently, it would be better if he handed in his card.

Brit, aged 46, was entered as the professional from New Mexico State University. He departed as a "gate-

crasher" when Keith Tate, a member of the R&A, intervened after only three holes of the qualifying competition.

Tony Mahoney, a young Australian who was one of Brit's two playing partners yesterday, said: "He nailed his first drive 150 yards downwind with a big draw. I thought he had hit it out of the neck. When he hit the next right out of the neck I realized his first was a good shot. His ball landed in a puddle, he asked for a ruling and measured one club length away from where it was. Then he dropped it back into the puddle. When he took four to get out of a bunker and eventually thinned the ball into a bush I couldn't stop laughing."

Brit, who served in the US Air Force, said: "I've been a professional

for about 20 years and nothing like this has ever happened to me. I don't suppose they will let me in again."

He faces a lifetime ban from the Open Championship. But what bothers the R&A is that they have refused Brit entry since 1984 (when he retired from the qualifying round because he was unwell). This time he was accepted because his entry form was accompanied by an identification card from the United States Professional Golfers' Association.

Michael Reece, a member of the championship committee, said: "We will have to investigate matters because we could have a major international incident if in future we turn down accredited PGA members. We checked him out in 1984 when we were told he was an indoor golf

teacher in Alaska. So we were aware of him before the start."

The two most notorious characters to beat the R&A screening system were Walter Dancicki, a post office worker from Milwaukee, and Maurice Flitcroft, a crane driver from Barrow-in-Furness. Dancicki had scores of 108 and 113 at Hillside in 1965 and Flitcroft retreated after a first round of 121 - 49 over par - at Forbury in 1976.

Coincidentally, Reece was on duty in 1984 when Flitcroft again attempted to earn himself a place in the Open - "It seemed like the only way to play with Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus," he said - by posing as a professional from Switzerland called Gerald Hoppy.

Open qualifiers, page 39

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Parenthood lessons will try to tackle roots of crime

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Ministers are planning to introduce government-backed lessons in parenthood as part of a package of new measures aimed at tackling crime.

Their determination to apply novel long-term solutions to combat crime will be signalled today by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, who is expected to develop his argument that the police and the courts alone cannot stem the rising tide of lawlessness.

He will tell parents that they have a key role to play by instilling a sense of self-discipline and personal responsibility in their children.

He will warn them that they cannot blame schools, television or the pressures of the competitive society created by Thatcherism for the bad behaviour of so many young people.

Mr Hurd's speech in Oxford will represent the latest and most trenchant articulation of the new law and order policy platform being constructed within the 12-strong Ministerial Group on Crime Prevention chaired by Mr John Patten, his Home Office deputy.

With the backing of the Home Secretary, Mr Patten has begun steering the group's work away from past concentration on the nuts and bolts of fighting crime through tighter physical security.

As *The Times* disclosed last week, the group is examining the possibility of schools impressing on children the painful consequences of crime and injecting a bigger moral dimension into the classroom.

Mr Patten said yesterday: "The Conservatives have ventured into so many areas where no one ever dared to tread before. Now we are turning our attention to the roots of criminality, while continuing with our campaign to stamp out opportunistic crime by better physical security."

The proposals for classroom courses in parenthood are linked to a policy paper being drawn up by Mr Antony Newton, the Minister for Health, for presentation to the next meeting of the group in September.

He has been holding talks with his colleagues in the Department of Education and

Science. Education sources yesterday indicated there was firm backing for a nationwide initiative aimed at preparing teenagers for the responsibilities of family life.

One minister commented: "It's important for young parents to have some idea about bringing up children. It is more difficult than people think to be a mum or a dad."

"We need to explain to young people that a baby is not just a new doll. It needs to be fed, cleaned, loved, controlled and brought up gently to be a human being."

It is understood that ministers are now considering asking their officials and inspectors to draw up guidelines for schools on parenthood courses for boys and girls in the 14-to-16 age group. Some schools already run such courses, but they tend to be directed at less academic girls.

Both Downing Street and the Home Office denied a report that Mr Hurd has forecast race riots this summer in a memorandum circulated to members of the Cabinet's home affairs subcommittee.

Government sources said that the memorandum, based on reports from chief constables for the English metropolitan regions, amounted to "normal annual contingency planning".

The state of rural violence continued at the weekend when, at least five policemen were injured in violent clashes in three towns.

At Swindon in Wiltshire a police sergeant was beaten, kicked, and had his spectacles smashed as he and two colleagues struggled to control a gang of about 40 youths fighting in the town centre.

A police van was damaged and two youths were arrested. At Bedhampton in Hampshire a policeman was kicked in the face and head after being thrown to the ground during a disturbance.

Hampshire police said he was admitted to the hospital in Cosham with head injuries and a broken tooth.

Two youths were detained at Caterham, Surrey, after a police officer called to a fight outside a public house was kicked and punched.

Duchess given all-clear



The Duchess of York with Bendix, her Jack Russell, at Windsor last night.

The Duchess of York, who expects her first baby next month, has been given the all-clear by her gynaecologist after her car was involved in an accident on the M4.

The driver of the other car involved, Mr Mike Burrows, a financial consultant, has spoken of his relief that she escaped unhurt. "I am just so relieved she is all right and was not injured in the crash," he said at the weekend.

Mr Burrows, aged 31, faces possible prosecution for careless driving.

Speaking at his home in Heol Powys, Birchgrove, Cardiff, where he lives with his

parents, he said: "It was my first trip to London by car because I usually take the train. I had borrowed a friend's car."

The Duchess's gynaecologist, Mr Anthony Kenney, a Harley Street consultant, has visited her. Buckingham Palace said: "There are no problems. She is OK."

The accident happened on Friday as the royal Jaguar, driven by a police bodyguard, was travelling east in slow-moving traffic on a contraflow section of the M4 between Newbury and Theale, Berkshire.

(Photograph: James Gray)

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Profitable end to a holiday

Mrs Joyce Lane, back home after a Cornish holiday, found that she had won £4,000 in Saturday's weekly Portfolio competition. "My daughter has always pulled my leg about the way I always check the numbers and said I'll never win," Mrs Lane, a widow in her 60s from Sawbridgeworth in Hertfordshire, said.

"But when I got back home I quickly checked Friday's numbers and then Saturday's, too," Mrs Lane, who has been entering the competition since it started, said part of her prize will go to her two daughters and that the remainder will pay for double-glazing and other home improvements.

The other winner of Saturday's weekly prize was Mrs Margaret Morrison, aged 68, of Portgordon, Grampian. She has not yet decided how to use the £4,000.

In some editions of *The Times* on Saturday, the Portfolio Accumulator total incorrectly appeared as 22. The figure for the total, of course, should have been 229.

Drug dangers 'lure to youth'

Alarmist advertising designed to scare young people off drugs is more likely to lead them to drugs, the Policy Studies Institute reports today.

Its researchers interviewed 1,000 young people aged 11 to 19 in Portsmouth and neighbouring Havant, and 41 known drug, mostly heroin, users.

Ambush a growing menace to police

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Police are increasingly being ambushed on their way to investigate crime, a survey of annual reports by chief constables discloses.

"For whatever reason, the knowledge that the police are on their way to a late-night fracas no longer serves to disperse warring factions; instead, the combatants tend to unite and lie in wait to set upon the officers," Mr David East, Chief Constable of South Wales, reported.

Mr Geoffrey Dear, Chief Constable of the West Mid-

lands, said that the Castle Vale area had "seen police officers and their vehicles ambushed by gangs of youths" and South Yorkshire reported that officers making arrests, questioning a suspect or responding to calls for help had been surrounded by hostile youths whose aim has been to impede them.

In Devon and Cornwall, the vehicle fleet had been criminally damaged at levels unthinkable a few years ago. Gloucestershire's report disclosed that the number of

officers assaulted increased by almost 36 per cent.

In Cleveland, the most worrying trend was reported to be the increase in violence both during criminal acts and in general assaults on the public and police.

The number of juvenile offenders prosecuted for assaults on police officers rose by 200 per cent.

In Durham the number of officers injured on duty fell from 500 in 1986 to 460 but the number of days lost by injured officers rose from 703

to 3,210, indicating individual cases were more serious.

Norfolk reported a 29 per cent increase in violent crime during 1987.

There appears a clear association between the peaks of violent crime at night and when public houses and clubs close, according to the report of Mr George Charlton, the force's chief constable.

On Humberside, violent gangs, often the worse for drink, have disrupted "unlikely" places.

Spectrum, page 11

ITV seeks review of musicians' fee

By Andrew Billen

Independent television companies are to present a package of reforms to the Musicians' Union as the next step towards reducing costs.

The move is part of its struggle to remain viable against increased terrestrial and satellite television competition in the 1990s.

Heads of music at ITV stations around the country have been drawing up a plan to rewrite the complicated agreement with the musicians that has grown up over the years.

Some of the practices complained about by the companies are the restrictions on pop stars singing to pre-recorded backing tracks and residual deals in which musicians are paid over and over again when programmes are sold for video or foreign use.

The move, for which it is believed Yorkshire Television is pressing particularly hard, comes at the beginning of a key week in ITV history.

Today a ministerial group led by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, and Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will meet in Newbury, Berkshire, to discuss the terms of a White Paper on broadcasting.

The paper, due to be published this autumn, is expected to propose that ITV franchises should be awarded to the highest bidder.

University trust fund welcomed

By Sarah Thompson Education Reporter

A rescue fund for Cambridge University has been welcomed as the first real attempt to channel some of the richer colleges' large endowments into the university.

The Isaac Newton Trust Fund is being established by Trinity College, Britain's largest private land owner.

The size of the fund is not yet known - nor whether other rich colleges such as St John's or Gonville and Caius will contribute to it - but it will be more than the £2.5 million being spent by colleges on university appointments. The fund is likely to be used for research and teaching.

Mr Michael McCrum, Cambridge Vice-Chancellor and Master of Corpus Christi College, said he very much hoped other colleges would join the fund. "All universities are being encouraged to look for funds from outside and this is one way we can do it."

The colleges already fund about 300 research fellows at a cost of £2.5 million and more than 100 of their own non-university teachers at a cost of a further £1 million a year.

Unlike Oxford, however, Cambridge elected to fund posts in colleges through university income - making it difficult for the university to fund posts while the colleges have grown richer.

Air travel confusion

Planner juggles in the skies

By Harvey Elliott

As he plotted the day's first "bomber wave" carrying British holidaymakers to the Mediterranean sun spots, Mr Ian Wheadon could not remember a Sunday morning in which he had used so much green ink.

On the 35 white plasticized boards recording the movements of aircraft flying for Britannia Airways green indicated a flight within half an hour of its schedule. So far this summer the boards in the Britannia operations room at Luton Airport have been covered in red.

Mr Wheadon, yesterday's operations duty officer, began his 12-hour shift at 7 am expecting to find the usual chaos, with aircraft in the wrong place - stuck in Spain, Italy or Greece - and a profusion of red marks.

Two aircraft had been stuck in Ibiza for most of the night, and red marks on the board were indicating delays of up to six hours. A flight from Luton to Luton was 2 hours 45 minutes late and seemed likely to accumulate more delays.

However, the rest of the fleet - 28 Boeing 737s, six Boeing 767s and a sub-chartered 737 - were waiting at British airports for take-off slots for the first of three round-trip flights which would

carry 15,000 people to and from their package holiday.

"Just wait until the air traffic controllers start imposing flow control and the delays build up later in the day," Mr Wheadon said. But that did not happen - at least not to the extent of the previous weekend, when Europe's air traffic system seized up.

The worst affected area yesterday was Palma, Majorca, where each of the 10 first-wave flights were delayed about 40 minutes by Barcelona air traffic controllers.

Britannia's staff studied the boards to see if one aircraft could be switched for another. So by replacing, for example, Boeing 737 Delta Romeo with Whiskey Fox Trot a flight from Luton to Luton which would have been 3 hours 30 minutes late took off 40 minutes late, while another left an hour instead of 30 minutes late. The juggling act went on all day.

By the time the second bomber wave was ready to leave in mid-afternoon, little remained of the original neat flight plans and at least half the aircraft had been swapped or re-routed. That meant dozens of telephone calls to the 400 pilots and cabin crew.

"Last weekend we did not get the first wave off until seven in the evening," Mr Malcolm Satchell, Mr

Wheadon's controller, said as he chalked up the last of the morning flights at noon.

"No one can understand why last weekend there was such chaos and this weekend, allowing for a few exceptions, we are not doing too bad at all. It can only be that a different shift is now on duty - perhaps at Barcelona, which is accepting flights when last week they would not."

Throughout the 12-hour shift operational duty officers from other airlines were constantly ringing Britannia's operations room, puzzled that so much was going right. But it is doubtful if the good luck will last through the week.

New shifts will be on in air traffic control centres throughout Europe. The Greeks are threatening to bring chaos to the eastern Mediterranean by deliberately not eating or sleeping so that they have to be declared medically unfit, thus avoiding having to take illegal strike action.

Britannia was told yesterday that Spanish handling staff plan a one-day strike each weekend for the rest of this month. At any time the red pen may be the only one being used on those white boards and the misery may start again for British air travellers.

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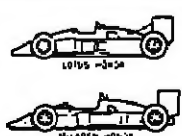
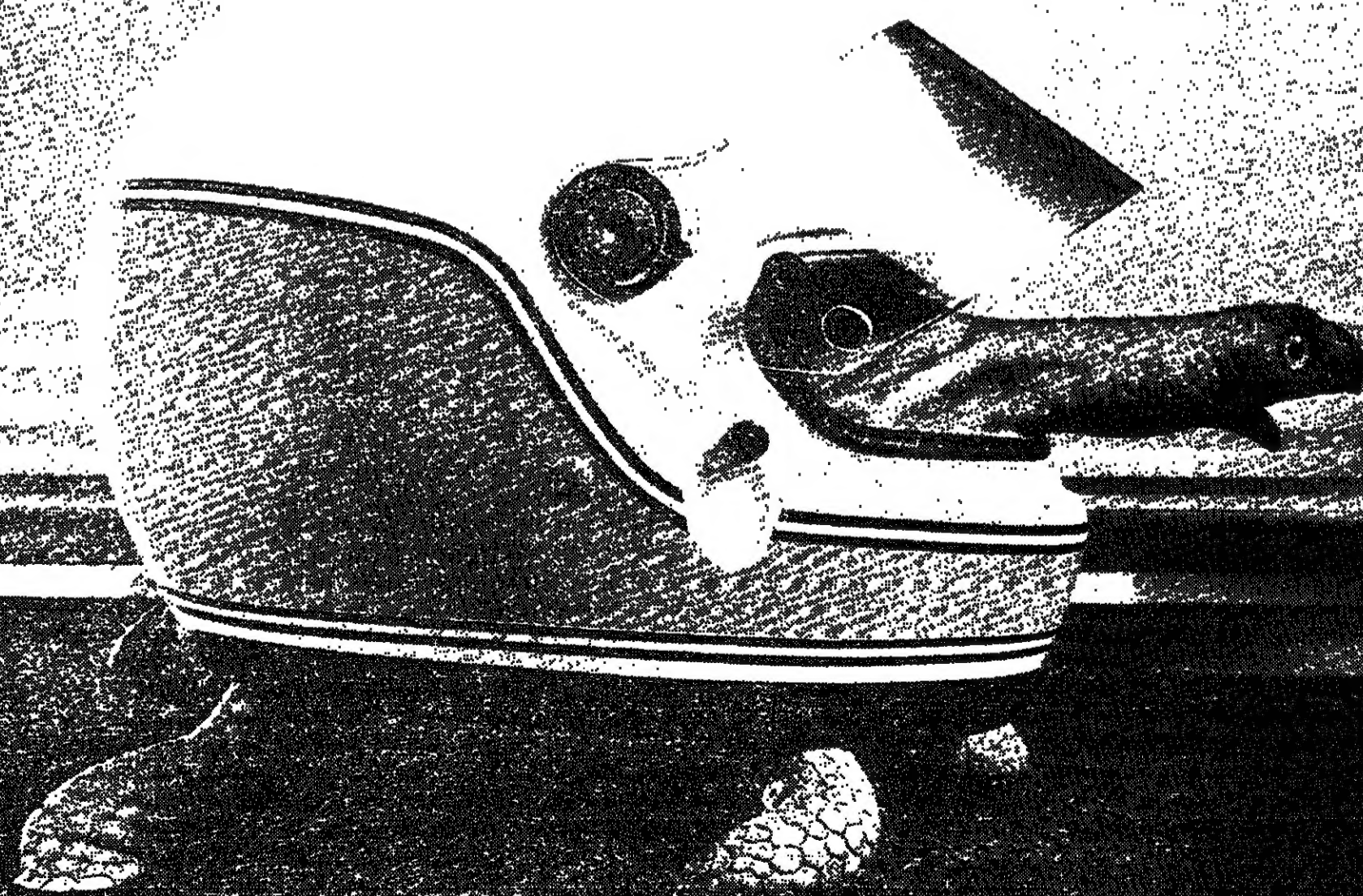
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Kinnock suffers poll blow after 'something for something' nuclear defence stand

Conservatives leap to 10-point lead

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

An aggregate of MORI polls to give the most detailed picture yet available of voting intentions in the past three months shows that the gap between the Conservative Government and the Labour Opposition has widened steadily.

In April the Conservatives had a two-point lead over Labour, in May that had extended to four points, and in June the gap increased to 10 points.

Even so, that almost certainly understates the Conservative lead because it was only in the past three weeks of the three-month survey period that Labour's latest bout of troubles began with Mr Neil Kinnock's now-famous "something for something" interview on nuclear disarmament, the resignation of his defence spokesman, Mr Denis Davies, and the convolutions which followed.



Mr Kinnock: lengthy foray into southern Africa

Fieldwork for MORI's final survey in the series did not take place until June 22-28.

What is particularly telling for Labour is that when the last three-month MORI aggregate poll - the largest measurement of opinion on the polling scene - was published in April it showed that Mr Kinnock's party had steadily and surely closed the gap on the Government since the general election.

Since then some of the gloss has been knocked off the Government's economic performance and Labour could have expected to benefit further. Instead, the party has suffered badly and must have begun doing so even before the latest MORI poll.

The MORI study of 10,124 respondents, 7,989 of them expressing a voting intention, is a dismal reading for the Opposition parties on almost every count.

The Conservatives were named by 48 per cent as their choice if there were an election tomorrow. Labour scored 38 per cent, the SLD 7 per cent, the SDP 5 per cent and Others 2 per cent.

That compares with 44 per cent for the Government and 42 per cent for Labour in April and with figures at the last general election of Conservatives 43 per cent, Labour 32 per cent and Alliance 23 per cent.

Satisfaction ratings with the leaders tell the same story of government consolidation.

Over the past three months



satisfaction with Mrs Margaret Thatcher's performance as Prime Minister has increased from 43 per cent to 49 per cent and the relationship of those satisfied and dissatisfied with her has switched from a rating of minus 9 to plus 3.

Satisfaction with Mr Kinnock, who has taken the risk of leaving the country for a lengthy foray in southern Africa as the parliamentary timetable reaches its busiest period, has dropped from 39 per cent to 32 per cent over the same period, with 55 per cent now unimpressed with the way he is doing his job. His rating has thus dropped from minus 8 to minus 23 points.

Satisfaction with the way the Government is running the country has moved up from 38 per cent to 42 per cent while dissatisfaction has dropped from 36 per cent in April to 49 per cent now.

That is despite the fact that the economic optimism index, which has in recent years shown a close correlation to voting intention, is now showing a net plus of only 6 per cent compared with 11 per cent in April and 15 per cent in May.

The presentation of the latest MORI aggregate differs

In 1973, 23 per cent of unionists were women, 26 per cent were middle class (ABC1s), 43 per cent owned their own homes and 6 per cent were share owners.

The MORI survey reveals that a third of unionists are now women. Male unionists make up 16 per cent of the electorate, and women unionists 8 per cent.

Nearly 40 per cent of unionists are middle class and 23 per cent of unionists own shares. Seventy-six per cent have bought or are buying their own homes.

from the last in showing separate figures for the SLD and SDP, which had previously been grouped as ex-Alliance. The figures do not bode well for them in this week's Kensington by-election.

At the 1983 general election they had 26 per cent of the national vote and they held on to 23 per cent at the 1987 election. By the first quarter they were down to 14 per cent and now the SLD or Democrats and SDP have just 11 per cent between them. Collectively they have lost more than half the support they had last June.

Although SLD strategists believe their standing will

improve once the barnyard scrapping is over and they have launched their leader at the first conference of the new party in Blackpool in September the latest poll shows a further decline since this year's local government elections.

The pollsters also found considerable confusion in the public mind about both the SLD and Dr David Owen's SDP.

What shifts there have been in political attitudes are reflected equally between men and women and across the regions and classes. The general story is one of Labour falling back into its heartlands of the North, the urban areas, the council estates and the shrinking manual working class.

One special factor is that in Scotland the third-party vote appears to be shifting to the Scottish National Party. A



Mr Davies: party convulsed after his resignation

recent MORI poll for The Scotsman showed that support for a separatist Scottish assembly is running at about a third of the Scottish electorate after sticking close to 20 per cent for most of the past decade.

In April MORI found that 35 per cent of those polled in Scotland (a sample of 1,108) favoured a Scottish assembly completely independent from England, 42 per cent favoured a Scottish assembly as part of Britain but with substantial powers.

The would-be separatists included four in 10 of Labour supporters and one in five of Alliance supporters. That is enough overall to have some party strategists wondering if the SNP is set for another cyclical revival.

Almost the only consolation for Labour in the figures is that a projection of parliamentary seats based on the present breakdown of the votes would see the Tories drop from 376 to 359 and Labour rise from 229 to 271, an increase of 42. But the computer projection ignores special local factors.

What is instructive is to compare some of the figures with October 1974, the last time Labour won a working majority in Parliament, to see the underlying changes in the electorate and the extent of the mountain that Mr Kinnock's party now has to climb.

Labour's share of the vote nationally is now one point ahead of its support then. At

that time the Liberals stood at 19 per cent compared with the 11 per cent for the ex-Alliance parties now.

Other parties are down 2 per cent compared with 1974, so Share owners represent 21 per cent of intending voters and 20 per cent of the electorate. They split 54 per cent men and 46 per cent women.

Twenty-two per cent of 18 to 34-year-olds are share owners, so are 39 per cent of the 35 to 54-year-olds and 38 per cent of those aged 55 and over.

The split of voting intentions among share owners in the latest quarter covered by the MORI poll is: Conservative 64 per cent, Labour 22 per cent, SLD 7 per cent, SDP 4 per cent and Others 2 per cent.

instead of Labour having a three-point lead as they did then, the Tories are ahead in MORI's aggregate for the past three months by five, a 4 per cent swing in their favour.

There has been a wholesale collapse in the former Liberal vote; male support for the Conservatives is up 14 per cent since 1974, while Labour has stayed about the same.

The gender profile for the SLD and SDP, the former Alliance partners, is remarkably similar. Democrats' (SLD) support is comprised of 58 per cent women and 42 per cent men, SDP support is 56 per cent among women and 44 per cent among men.

In 1979 the Tories did 9 per cent better among women voters than among men, and the figure was 8 per cent in 1983. At the last election the gender gap disappeared, with women and men supporting the Conservatives in equal proportions.

That was held to be partly

Q: (a) What would you say is the most important issue facing Britain today?

(b) What do you see as the other important issues facing Britain today?

Unemplmt Prices Disamnt NHS Law/Order N Ire Educ Aids

Apr 22-26 53 6 13 50 20 4 15 5

May 27-Jun 1 53 5 13 44 23 3 15 4

Jun 22-28 49 7 17 35 34 3 14 3

When it lost its lead with voters nationally back in 1979 it lost too its lead with the young.

The Liberals were a popular third force choice with the young in the 1970s. Their share of young voters was 27 per cent in 1974. As the young voters have slipped away from the Liberals, Labour has failed to win them over in sufficient numbers.

At last year's general election, Labour had a two-point lead over the Conservatives among the 18 to 24-year-olds, who form 15 per cent of the electorate, with 39 per cent of them to 37 per cent.

The long-term trends make depressing reading for Walworth Road strategists. The C1 group of voters, the clerical and administrative class, amount to a quarter of the electorate.

As bakers' daughters become secretaries and miners' daughters bank clerks the

Mr John Martin: SDP man at Kensington by-election

Labour identified by the poll data is the party's failure to attract sufficient young voters.

Motorway repairs

RAC concern over crash barriers

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The RAC has called for more research into strengthening central crash barriers on motorways after two accidents at the weekend in which five people died and six were injured. They should be able to cope with heavier and faster vehicles, the motoring body said.

Vehicles crossed the central barrier in both accidents, on the M25 in Essex and on the M4 in Wiltshire.

The Automobile Association said it believed that there was the problem that if central barriers were made strong enough to prevent any vehicle crashing through, they could throw the vehicle back on to the carriageway.

London and South-east

M1 London: contraflow jns 4 and 5 (Epsom/Harrow) northbound entry closed at jn 4, diversion via A41 and jn 5.

M25 Surrey: contraflow jns 11-12 (Chertsey/M3).

M25 Hertfordshire: lane closures jns 24-23 (Potter's Bar/South Mimms).

M11 Essex: contraflow jns 6-7 (M25/Harrow) and jns 8-9 (Stansted/A11).

M2 Kent: lane closures jn 5 (Sittingbourne).

M20 Kent: lane restrictions jns 11-12 (Hythe/Cheriton).

M40 Oxfordshire: contraflow jns 6-7 (Wallingford/Thame), slip road closures jn 7.

M4 Berkshire: contraflow jns 12-13 (Thrale/Newbury).

Midlands

M5 Hereford/Worcester: contraflow jns 5-6 (Droitwich/Worcester North).

M6 West Midlands: lane closures jns 6-7 (spaghetti junction area), southbound entry slip at jn 7 closed 7am to 10am.

M42 West Midlands: contraflow jns 6-7 (A45/A41), Delays.

M54 Shropshire: lane closures junctions 5-6 (Wellington/Telford).

North

M6 Cheshire: contraflow jns 16-17 (Kilgobbin/Sandbach).

M6 Cheshire: contraflow jns 21a-22 (M62/A580).

M6 Greater Manchester: lane closures jns 26-27 (M58/Wigan).

M62 Greater Manchester: lane restrictions jns 21-22 (A640/A672).

M62 West Yorkshire: widening of westbound carriageway, lane closures, contraflow jns 24-25 (Huddersfield/Brighouse).

M63 Greater Manchester: two lanes only jns 1-7 (M62/A56); contraflow over Barton Bridge.

M63 Cheshire: contraflow jns 12-13 (A5145).

M65 Lancashire: Calder Valley motorway, roundabout construction jn 13 (A682).

Wales and West

M4 Gwent: lane closures jns 25-26 (Bonglas tunnel); jn 24 (A449 Newport), congestion due to construction of traffic lane.

M4 South Glamorgan: lane restrictions jn 33 (A4232 Capel Llanilthen link road); contraflow jns 9-11 (Tewkesbury/Cheltenham).

M5 Gloucestershire: lane closures jns 11-12 (Cheltenham/Gloucester).

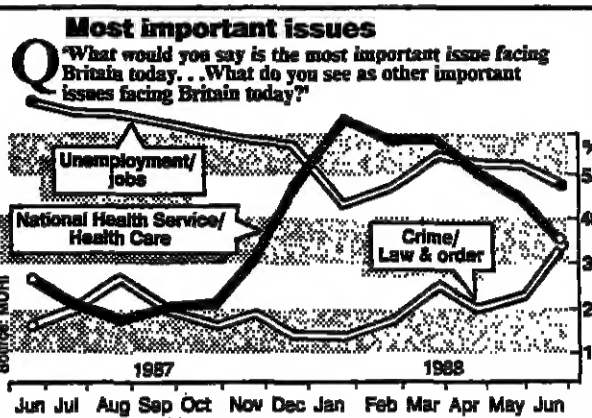
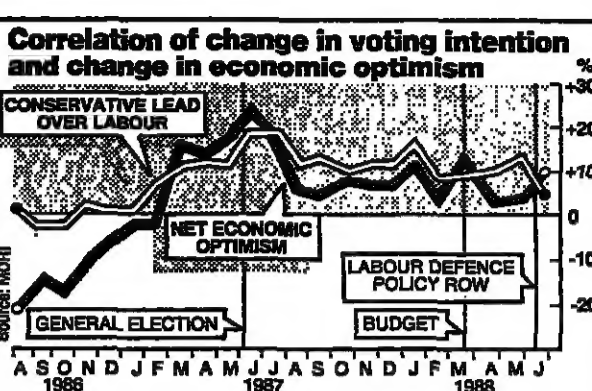
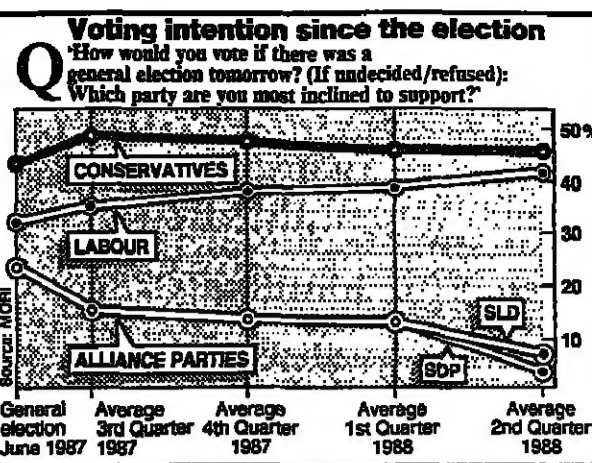
Scotland

M74 Strathclyde (Levenshaye): contraflow jns 7-8 (A72 and B7078); contraflow jn 4 (Maryville).

M73 Strathclyde: single lane on south link to M74 (westbound).

M90 Tayside (Perthshire): lane closures north of jn 4 (Cocklaw) to north of jn 8 (A91).

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch



Most important issue facing Britain today?						
Important issues facing Britain today?						
Issues	Disarmnt	NHS	Law/Order	N Ire	Educ	Ali
Apr 22-26	44	50	20	4	15	
May 27-Jun 1	44	44	23	3	15	
Jun 22-28	48	38	19	5	10	

Q: Do you think that the general economic condition of the country will improve, stay the same or get worse over the next 12 months?

Improve	Same	Worse	Net improve	
Apr 22-26	37	28	26	11
May 27-Jun 1	37	32	22	15
Jun 22-28	32	32	27	6

Q: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?

Q: Mrs Thatcher is doing her job as Prime Minister?

Q: Mr Kinnock is doing his job as leader of the Labour Party?

Q: Dr Owen is doing his job as leader of the SDP?

the Liberals, Labour has failed to win them over in sufficient

council house tenants previously.

If that were so there should now be a considerable intensification of Labour support among the remaining council tenants. That has not happened here either.

One of the more remarkable indications from the poll is provided by the voting intention figures from those who have bought council houses and those who remain as council tenants.

Since Labour has traditionally found support among council tenants it might have been expected that the sale of more than a million council homes to their tenants would have seen a dilution of the traditional Tory support among owner occupiers. But that has not happened.

In 1974 the Conservatives had a 14 per cent lead among owner occupiers. That has now increased to 23 per cent.

It could be argued that those who have bought their council houses were most likely to have been the Tory-voting

per cent up on the 1974 figure of 39 per cent.

The poll data underlines the danger of seeing Britain in simplistic North/South terms.

The poll figures, with 3,737 questioned in the North (including Scotland), 2,589 in the Midlands and 3,798 in the more populous South, show that Labour's 13 per cent lead in the North (35 per cent of the electorate) in 1974 has widened to 17 per cent while the Tory lead in the South (40 per cent) has widened from 9 per cent to 25 per cent.

In the Midlands Labour's 5 per cent lead in 1974 is now a 9 per cent Tory lead.

MORI interviewed 10,124 adults aged 18 plus in more than 170 constituency sampling points throughout Great Britain during the quarter. Of those, 7,989 expressed a voting intention. The data were weighted to reflect accurately the statistical composition of the country.

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Change in Voting Trends Since First Quarter

	1 Qtr	Now	Ch	1 Qtr	Now	Ch	1 Qtr	Now	Ch
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C lead	46	48	0	46	48	0	46	48	0
Lab	38	41	3	39	42	3	37	40	3
SLD	14	7	-7	12	4	-8	15	5	-10
SDP	14	4	-10	7	4	-3	9	6	-3

C lead	8	5	-3	7	4	-3	9	6	-3
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C lead	59	51	-8	42	42	0	31	30	-1
Lab	23	25	2	42	44	2	55	59	4
SLD	18	8	-10	13	5	-8	12	4	-8
SDP	10	3	-7	0	-2	-2	-24	-29	-5

C lead	36	36	0	0	-2	-2	-24	-29	-5
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C lead	42	42	0	45	47	2	47	47	0
Lab	45	45	0	39	40	1	36	38	2
SLD	10	3	-7	14	7	-7	15	7	-8
SDP	10	3	-7	0	-2	-2	11	9	-2

C lead	-3	-3	0	6	7	1	11	9	-2
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C lead	47	46	-1	35	37	2	49	49	0
Lab	36	41	5	48	48	0	35	38	3
SLD	15	4	-11	14	7	-7	14	4	-10
SDP	15	4	-11	0	-2	-2	14	4	-10

C lead	11	6	-5	-13	-12	1	14	11	-3
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C lead	35	35	0	48	49	1	55	55	0
Lab	50	52	2	38	40	2	27	30	3
SLD	12	5	-7	12	6	-6	17	6	-11
SDP	15	4	-11	0	-2	-2	28	25	-3

C lead	-15	-17	-2	10	9	-1	28	25	-3
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C lead	54	55	1	22	22	0	43	43	0
Lab	36	36	0	62	65	3	42	48	6
SLD	15	7	-8	11	5	-6	12	7	-5
SDP	15	5	-10	0	-3	-3	12	6	-6

C lead	25	23	-2	-39	-43	-4	1	-11	-12
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Navy 'overheard' Airbus warning

Radio officers on board a British warship in the Gulf overheard attempts by the USS Vincennes to warn the Iranian aircraft before it was shot down, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes).

The British account has been passed to US investigators, headed by Rear Admiral William Fogarty, who are attempting to establish how the Airbus came to be misidentified as an Iranian F14 fighter. The British ship was not named but is understood to have been HMS Beaver, a Type-22 frigate with the Armilla patrol.

The ministry refused to comment on a Sunday newspaper report claiming that its information contradicted American claims that the Airbus was descending at the time.

● Cooper question: Mr Paul Cooper, whose brother Roger has been held without trial in Iran since 1985 has questioned the Foreign Office's refusal to send a diplomat to the British Embassy in Tehran. Mr Cooper, who returned to Britain on Saturday after visiting his brother, said he believed his case was linked to the state of Anglo-Iranian relations. An improvement in ties would help, and sending a diplomat to Tehran would be a step in the right direction.

Israeli fears over deal

Jerusalem — The huge arms deal between Britain and Saudi Arabia is causing considerable concern here with fears expressed that the sophisticated weaponry could some day be used against Israel (David Bernstein writes). The Foreign Ministry noted that "the sale of weapons, especially of an offensive nature, to countries in a state of war with Israel does not contribute to stability in our region".

Apparently of most concern about the deal, which includes the sale of up to 40 Tornado jet fighters, up to eight mine-hunters and other weapons, are the Tornados, which could pose a serious threat to Israeli targets.

Bishops' liberal vote

Washington — Bishops of the Episcopal Church, part of the Anglican community, have voted to forbid discrimination against homosexuals seeking to become clergy, overturning a 1979 statement that it was inappropriate to ordain homosexuals (Michael Binyon writes). But the hotly debated step was tempered by a vote that "no right to ordination is hereby established".

At a meeting in Detroit at the weekend the bishops declared "sexual orientation" would not be a barrier to those seeking ordination. Critics said that this could be misinterpreted as the church welcoming the ordination of practising homosexuals. The move has still to be ratified.

Lakes protest to US

Ottawa — A United States plan to divert water from the Great Lakes to the drought-hit Mississippi valley has prompted Canada to send a diplomatic protest to the Washington Government (John Best writes).

The plan, put forward by the state of Illinois, would divert 280 cubic metres of water a second from Lake Michigan into the Illinois and Mississippi rivers where barge traffic has been curtailed by low water levels. Mr Ray Hnatyshyn, the Canadian Minister of Justice, said his country would not consent to the massive diversion. Although Lake Michigan is entirely within the United States, water levels would be affected on the four other Great Lakes, each of which lap Canadian territory as well as American.

Teamsters' chief dies

Washington — Mr Jackie Presser, right, the indicted president of America's largest union, the Teamsters, died of heart failure on Saturday, aged 61 (Michael Binyon writes). He was charged in 1986 with racketeering and embezzlement, and last week the Justice Department sought to oversee the operations of the maverick union, which is often accused of Mafia links and illegal operations. Mr Presser, a cancer patient, was one of the few union leaders who was later denounced for to back President Reagan



during his campaigns, and was later denounced for to back President Reagan

French crash switch

Paris (Reuters) — A French court has withdrawn from a senior magistrate an inquiry into the crash of a brand-new Air France Airbus at the Mulhouse air display last month after he raised questions about the role of civil aviation authorities in the investigation.

Judicial sources say that the court took the inquiry into the June 26 crash — in which three people died — from the investigating magistrate, M Germain Sengelin, on Saturday. He has said the Transport Ministry and Civil Aviation Board were too quick to blame pilot error as the cause.

Tough debates reveal mood of Soviet people

May 18, Tashkent — At a meeting in Druzhba Narodov Square 1,700 people signed a petition to the party conference protesting against the persecution of Crimean Tatars and demanding the restoration of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimean Tatars. The speakers were drowned by music from a bus. An organizer warned the militia that if the bus did not leave the people would organize a procession. The bus left immediately.

May 20, Sverdlovsk — A meeting was called by the informal group Meeting 87. Four hundred people went to the building of the Communist Party regional headquarters and demanded to talk to the delegates to the party conference to find out whether their views represented those of the majority of the population. The demonstrators were invited into a hall filled with 1,000 party activists. The First Secretary of the City Party

THE SOVIET OPPOSITION

Communist, Kadashnikov, argued that the delegates to the conference should represent the party rather than the people. No demonstrator was allowed to speak.

May 22, Odessa — More than 100 people demonstrated in protest at the undemocratic way in which delegates to the party conference had been selected. A telegram was sent from the meeting to the Central Committee of the party demanding that all elections for delegates be analysed, saying that those in the Ukraine had been falsified.

May 29, Omsk — A meeting was held at the Dynamo Stadium by supporters of democratization to express the dissatisfaction of students and lecturers of the Omsk Institute at the way in which delegates were being selected for the party conference. This initiative was supported by several industries in the town.

The meeting began at 5pm and was attended by between 6,000 to 10,000 people and observed by several hundred militia and KGB men. The speakers criticized the activity

The drama of the recent 19th conference of the Soviet Communist Party was preceded by local debates across the country about the selection of delegates. This week's look at unofficial opposition activity records some of them.

of the Omsk City Party Committee and the local party. New elections were demanded. A representative from the City Committee attended but did not speak.

On the same day a large crowd gathered at a meeting organized by the Democratic Front in support of perestroika, but this demonstration was dispersed by the militia.

June, Moscow — Eighteen unofficial groups in Moscow put forward a number of suggestions to the party conference. Among them they propose the removal of articles in the Soviet Constitution relating to the role of the Communist Party, the release of all political prisoners, repeal of Article 70 (anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda) and Article 190 (slander against the Soviet state) of the Criminal Code. Signatures to the petition included: Club for Social Initiative; Democratic

Perestroika; Perestroika-88; First Unit of the Federation of Social Unity; Unity of Socialist Initiative.

June 16, Lvov — Up to 8,000 people attended a meeting organized by the society Ridna Mova (Native Language), which debated the selection of candidates to the party conference. Vyacheslav Chornovil argued that the Lvov delegates could not represent the local population because they were remnants of the Brezhnev era. Mikhail Horyn spoke about the fate of political prisoners, conditions in prison camps and the double standards on freedom of speech.

It was proposed by Roman Ivanychuk and Roman Lukivsky that members of the local Writers' Union be added to the list of conference delegates. It was decided that similar meetings to discuss such issues would be held

every first Thursday of the month by Ivan Franko statue.

June 16, Krasnoyarsk — A meeting of protest at the selection of delegates to the party conference was organized by the newly formed group, Democratic Centre.

June 18, Magadan — Some 2,500 people demonstrated demanding the re-selection of delegates to the party conference, particularly the First Secretary of the City Council, Osily, and the First Secretary of the Regional Party Committee, Bogdanov. As a result of the demonstration the group Democratic Initiative was formed, with several former political prisoners among the leadership.

June 21, Lvov — A general meeting was held in which participants expressed "no confidence" in delegates to the party conference, particularly the First Secretary of the Communist Party, Shcherbinsky, the First Secretary of the Regional Party Committee, Pogrebnuk, and the head of the KGB in Lvov, Malik. The meeting was organized by Ridna Mova. The

Secretary of the Lvov City Party Committee, Volkov, and the Chairman of the City Council, Pekhotov, promised to give an account to the citizens of the city's programme for the party conference.

A meeting for conference delegates at the Druzhba Stadium was announced. That morning, however, citizens of Lvov received through the post leaflets urging them not to attend the meeting. The newspapers of the Regional Committee carried articles against the organizers of the meeting, calling them the "agents of Western intelligence services".

Despite this, 50,000 people gathered at the stadium to find notices saying that the stadium was closed for repairs. The meeting, therefore, took place outside the stadium. Loudspeakers were used to drown the speakers at the meeting. For two hours the crowd shouted slogans. Then they moved to the town centre by Lenin's Monument, carrying placards supporting perestroika; the square was filled with militiamen.

Gorbachov sets out to overcome years of Polish hostility

From Richard Bassett, Warsaw

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov arrives in Warsaw today for a six-day visit to Poland for a visit to examine this and potentially other explosive differences in interpretation, has remained somewhat coy over Katyn, promising some judgement in the "not too distant future".

While it might seem that nothing could be easier than to tack the horrors of Katyn on to the long list of Stalin's crimes being aired in Moscow, the crime's enormity and its ability to focus and arouse Polish passions cannot be discounted. Taking into account the situations in Moscow and in Poland, it is likely that the Soviet leader will refer to Katyn only obliquely.

The Soviet leader also will encounter some hostility from those critical of General Wojciech Jaruzelski's leadership.

Unlike earlier visits to other Warsaw Pact countries, such as Czechoslovakia, Mr Gorbachov will be in a country where a large, volatile body of opinion is disaffected with the country's Government.

Mr Gorbachov and General Jaruzelski are known to get on very well; not the least of Mr Gorbachov's tasks this week will be to ensure that as much glasnost magic as possible rubs off on the General, who remains remote and unpopular for many Poles.

Before leaving Warsaw on Saturday, Mr Gorbachov will attend a meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders.

If he survives the week in Poland with his faith in the stability of Eastern Europe unimpaired, he will most likely finalize plans which sources in Eastern and West-

ern Europe believe will initiate the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary.

● MOSCOW: Nikolai Bukharin, who was executed by Stalin 50 years ago for opposing the dictator's forced collectivization policies, has been restored posthumously to full membership in the Communist Party — the final step in a rehabilitation initiated by Mr Gorbachov (A Correspondent writes).

The economic reforms proposed by Mr Gorbachov and now under study, such as greater emphasis on co-operative businesses, the introduction of limited private enterprise and more efficient use of land by renting state property to private farmers, closely mirror those that cost Bukharin his life in the 1930s.

● AMNESTY for banker: The Soviet press yesterday lifted a veil of secrecy over the collapse of a Soviet-owned bank in Zurich which lost 500 million Swiss francs (£185 million) before it was declared bankrupt in 1985 (Reuters reports from Moscow).

The newspaper Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya disclosed that the Soviet manager of the Voskhod Handelsbank — the main outlet for Soviet gold to the West before its bankruptcy — had been amnestied by a Soviet court despite his role in the affair, which included using bank funds to shower Kremlin leaders with gifts.

It said Yuri Karmukh was pardoned at a trial this year on the ground that he was a war invalid and had been decorated by the state for his services at the head of the Voskhod Handelsbank.

Russian chief in Wild West



The Soviet Union's top-ranking military officer, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, wearing an Indian head-dress presented to him in Oklahoma City during a weeklong visit to America, the first by a ranking Soviet military leader. Admiral William Crowe, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, accompanied him on the whirlwind tour of Oklahoma at the weekend.

Hungary pull-out claimed

Warsaw — Western and East bloc sources reported yesterday that there were growing indications of a Soviet withdrawal of troops stationed in Hungary (Richard Bassett writes).

Both senior American State Department officials and East European diplomats have hinted that Mr Gorbachov will make a dramatic gesture soon towards conventional disarmament by ordering the withdrawal of the four divisions the Soviet Union has stationed in Hungary.

Last week the Hungarian leader, Mr Karoly Grosz, said on television during a visit to Moscow that the removal of

Soviet troops from central Europe was an urgent priority.

Western diplomats yesterday said a withdrawal was likely in the foreseeable future.

One speculated that this Saturday's meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders in Poland would put the finishing touches to the plan, which would be of dramatic propaganda value to the East bloc in the deadlock negotiations on reducing conventional forces.

Other observers point out that despite its economic problems, Hungary's leadership has the credibility lacking in other Warsaw Pact countries. "In Czechoslovakia it's the Czech authorities as much

as the Soviets who want the Russian forces to remain," another military source said.

● MOSCOW: Eastern bloc and Western diplomats ruled out a complete withdrawal of the troops from Hungary but said a partial one would make economic and diplomatic sense. They said there was no solid indication from the Kremlin that any major troop withdrawal announcement was imminent.

● WASHINGTON: The State Department confirmed that there were indications that Moscow was considering a withdrawal. It said the US would welcome the withdrawal of all 65,000 soldiers.

Thatcher puts glasnost to the test

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher will test the limits of glasnost today by answering questions from Soviet listeners to the BBC's Russian Service on a live phone-in programme. The programme comes 18 months after the Soviet authorities stopped jamming the Russian Service, which claims an audience of 18 million.

Mrs Joyce Simson, of the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, said that refuseniks were planning to try to get through to Mrs

Thatcher with questions about human rights. Questions in Russian will be translated for Mrs Thatcher by the studio host, Mr Dorian Meghebbian, and a simultaneous interpreter will relay her answers in Russian.

Although only one name is now left on Mrs Thatcher's list of Anglo-Soviet families divided by Moscow's reluctance to allow certain people to leave, the overall picture is considered less satisfactory.

The Mediterranean heatwave

Winds cool Greece but bring more deaths in forest fires

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Gusting northern winds which are dispelling the scorching heatwave that killed more than 50 people in Greece last week, are being blamed for fanning the forest fires that are sweeping the mainland and the islands. These have added eight more deaths to the toll, including three members of a London family.

Mrs Irene Evans, aged 32, a Greek-born Briton, and her three daughters, who were spending the summer in a family farmhouse at Lakytira, on the island of Cephalonia, lost their way as they fled in their car from the beach after smelling the smoke of an approaching forest fire.

Forced to abandon the car, they found themselves trapped by the flames. The two younger girls, Jenny, aged 10, and Maria, aged 3, were burnt alive. The mother was seriously burnt and died while being flown to an Athens emergency unit. The eldest daughter, Angela, aged 13, survived with severe arm and leg burns and is being treated in an Athens hospital.

Her father, Mr Tom Evans, of London, who was to have

joined his family next month, flew to Cephalonia yesterday, still in a state of shock, to join his surviving daughter, who was unaware of the deaths of her mother and sisters.

Five other people died of burns or suffocation in other parts of Greece where troops and aircraft battled to put out 17 fires raging out of control, destroying forests and crops and threatening villages.

In Corfu, forest fires forced the evacuation of several tourist areas, but no casualties were reported.

Throughout the past week Athens sweltered in record temperatures of 43C and the situation was aggravated by severe water shortages. First aid stations and hospitals were receiving an average of 5,000 calls for help daily and it was estimated that more than 50 people died of heat stroke or diseases aggravated by the effects of heat and pollution.

● More deaths: Two more Britons have died in the past 48 hours while on holiday in Greece. Mrs Sheila Julia Gibbs, aged 59, from Bolton, Lancashire, died in her hotel at Tolon, near Nauplion, in

southern Greece. Mr James Walton McNicol, aged 58, who was on holiday with his three sons in Halkidiki, northern Greece, was found hanging from a tree.

● ANKARA: Turkey's week-long heatwave ended yesterday with welcome showers after high temperatures had caused the death of at least eight people (Rasit Gurdilic writes). Officials had earlier warned people against spending too much time outdoors.

● ROME: Soaring temperatures and lack of rain have led to water rationing in many areas of Italy, with the worst-hit region being Puglia, in the South (A Correspondent writes). One heat-related death has been reported in Calabria and forest fires have destroyed hundreds of hectares of woodland.

● MADRID: Summer weather arrived in most of Spain in the middle of last week, after one of the coolest, rainiest early summer periods on record (Harry Debelius writes). The weather reduced the income of outdoor attractions, although the influx of tourists was not affected.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

Anglo-German talks at Chequers

Thatcher and Kohl eager to be seen on good terms

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Prime Minister and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany plan to make greater efforts to show the Anglo-German relationship in a better light, after reports of a lack of sympathy between the two leaders.

After a three-hour meeting at Chequers on Saturday, government sources spoke of a "relaxed and very friendly" atmosphere. They concluded that the quality of their personal relationship, and that between the two countries, was undervalued by others.

The Prime Minister congratulated the Chancellor on the "successful and productive" West German presidency of the EEC. Its six-month term ended 10 days ago after a summit of the 12 leaders in Hanover.

But no hint emerged of any narrowing of important differences between Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl on the pace of EEC integration. The Chancellor, together with M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, President Mitterrand of France and others, is looking for faster progress towards economic and monetary union, and possibly later political union, than Mrs Thatcher is willing to accept.

One of the most contentious issues was avoided altogether at the Chequers talks. Official sources said they did not

discuss the decision taken in Hanover to set up a committee of central bank governors under the chairmanship of M Delors to propose "concrete stages" towards economic and monetary union.

Mrs Thatcher said before the decision that she "saw no point" in such a committee studying a European central bank, but it could look at other questions. Afterwards she said there was no reference to

Fears are growing that London could lose its pre-eminence among Europe's financial centres because of Mrs Thatcher's resistance to the European Monetary System and the setting up of a European central bank. A Lloyd's Bank report says the Government runs the risk of leaving the City isolated. Details, page 21

"European central bank" in its terms of reference, but M Delors has implied that it will study the question.

The incident left an impression that Mrs Thatcher was finding it hard to restrain the enthusiasm of other leaders. That was reinforced when she agreed in the House of Commons that it was theoretically possible that a European central bank could be set up on a majority vote of EEC ministers.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, put it to her that the

committee might come to the conclusion that a European central bank was essential for the effective functioning of the European internal market.

Mrs Thatcher replied: "He (Dr Owen) may be correct in theory. I do not think he is correct in any way in practice." Her argument was that practical politics rather than legal fine print would determine whether a European central bank came about.

But Government sources now say that this was an answer made without a legal briefing, and the government lawyers take the opposite view. They hold that Britain does have a veto power, and advanced this argument.

Article 100A of the Single European Act says that the Council of Ministers may approve proposals by a qualified majority, but also contains the key words "save where otherwise provided in this Treaty".

Article 102A makes reference to convergence of economic and monetary policy and says that any important institutional change would require a change in the Treaty.

Article 236 contains wording which the lawyers interpret as meaning that changes require unanimity.

Putting the three articles together, Whitehall's deduction is that a European central bank could be formed only

after a change to the Treaty had been ratified by all 12 parliaments.

But Dr Owen told *The Times*: "I think they are wrong." He said that provided the legal argument was finely focused on the need to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market, and avoided the issue of a single European currency, the conclusion was inevitable. He predicted that the Government would play for time but would eventually accept an arrangement.

"The deal will be that the central bank will be in London. They (the Government) will say that it is really no more than the existing Committee of Central Bank Governors," he said.

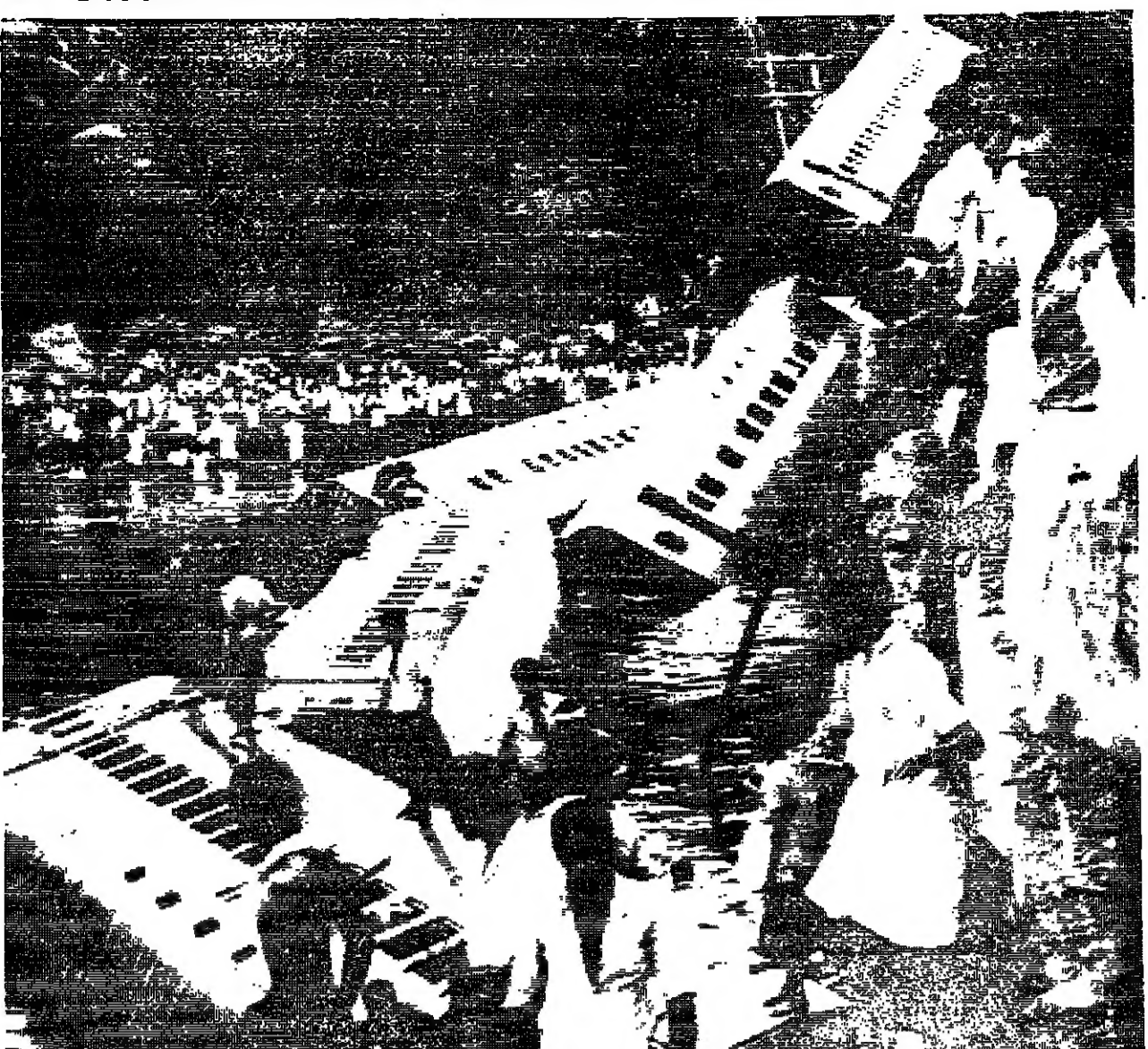
But Mrs Thatcher's belief that there will be no leaps towards a United States of Western Europe has been supported by a leading expert, Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, Master of St John's College, Cambridge.

In a speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs last Wednesday he said it was unlikely that European integration would come about through a series of small steps.

"The possibility must remain open that the Community... will still evolve into a body politic... but I do not think it will within any foreseeable future," he said.

Leading article, page 15

Death toll rises after Indian rail crash



Villagers helping to search for bodies in Ashtamudy lake in south India's Kerala state after nine carriages of the Bangalore-Trivandrum express were derailed in one of India's worst train disasters. Railway officials said 110 bodies had

been found so far and police said yesterday that the final death toll could top 150 (Reuter reports). Fifty survivors are in a serious condition in hospital. Navy frogmen yesterday were still struggling to search for bodies in the

monsoon-swollen waters in the lake near Quilon. Police said 150 passengers had been discharged from hospital. It is not known how many people were on the packed train on Friday. A railway official has started an inquiry into the disaster.

Haiti constitution scrapped

Namphy returns Duvalier backers to centre stage

By Alan Tomlinson

Haiti is soon to have a new constitution that will rehabilitate stalwarts of the ousted Duvalier dictatorship and allow their return into political life.

After seizing power in a coup last month, Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, the armed forces chief, has now formally scrapped the country's 1987 constitution which banned those regarded as architects and pillars of the old regime from seeking public office for 10 years.

The constitution, endorsed overwhelmingly in a referendum, was regarded by the Haitian people as perhaps the only surviving achievement of the rebellion which ended the 30-year Duvalier era in February, 1986.

General Namphy said the new constitution would retain some elements of the 1987 charter of rights while removing what he called "concepts foreign to Haiti's customs and traditions", a clear reference to the ban on Duvalier supporters. He made the announcement in the Presidential Palace on Friday at a gathering attended conspicuously by two of the staunchest Duvalier supporters, retired General Claude Raymond and former Finance Minister, Mr Clovis Desir.

The 1987 constitution prevented the two men from running in last year's presidential election which was later cancelled when troops and former members of the Tontons Macoute, the Du-

valier regime's secret police, massacred voters as they lined up at the polls. The Army then organized a new election and supported Mr Leslie Manigat before overthrowing him after just 136 days in office.

General Namphy's announcement coincided with end of a summit meeting of the 13-member Caribbean Community in Antigua at which the English-speaking leaders of the region again failed to agree on a collective response to the Haitian situation.

The Barbadian Prime Minister, Mr Erskine Sandiford, led an unsuccessful call for the suspension of Haiti's observer status in the Caribbean Community.

Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, blocked the Barbadian move with support from Guyana, Antigua and the Bahamas. He argued that suspending Haiti would demonstrate double standards since the French-speaking nation had been admitted to the organization under the Duvalier regime.

Trinidad's leader, Mr Arthur Robinson, expressed the disappointment of those nations which had supported Barbados. He said that the "strings of our societies" in the Caribbean were that "we have democratic systems", and added: "If we do not recognize that and place it at the basis of our Caribbean relationship then we are not making use of the defences that we have to the extent that we should."

Gurkhas settle

Delhi — The Gurkhas have accepted an autonomous hill council within West Bengal, ending a four-year campaign for a homeland that has claimed more than 300 lives (Kuldip Nayar writes). Mr Subhas Ghising, head of the Gurkha National Liberation Front, announced the settlement in Darjeeling yesterday after negotiations with the Delhi and West Bengal governments. The council is to have its own development budget, while border and national police forces will be withdrawn, with policing being left to the West Bengal force.

Bishop barred File evidence

Nairobi (Reuters) — An Anglican bishop, the Rev Alexander Muge, said he had been barred from visiting part of his diocese in north-western Kenya after urging the Government to provide famine relief. The Bishop said he would be informing the Archbishop of Canterbury of the situation.

Bus ambushed

Colombo (Reuters) — Tamil guerrillas ambushed a bus in northern Sri Lanka, killing two passengers and wounding 15 others, including five Indian soldiers.

Drugs swoop

Savona, Italy (AFP) — Italian police announced the smashing of a drugs ring after the arrest of a Colombian airline official in possession of 110lb of pure cocaine.

Bull victims

Pamplona, Spain (Reuters) — One man was gored and two were badly hurt on the fourth day of the traditional San Fermin bull-run festival in the streets of the northern town.

26 feared dead

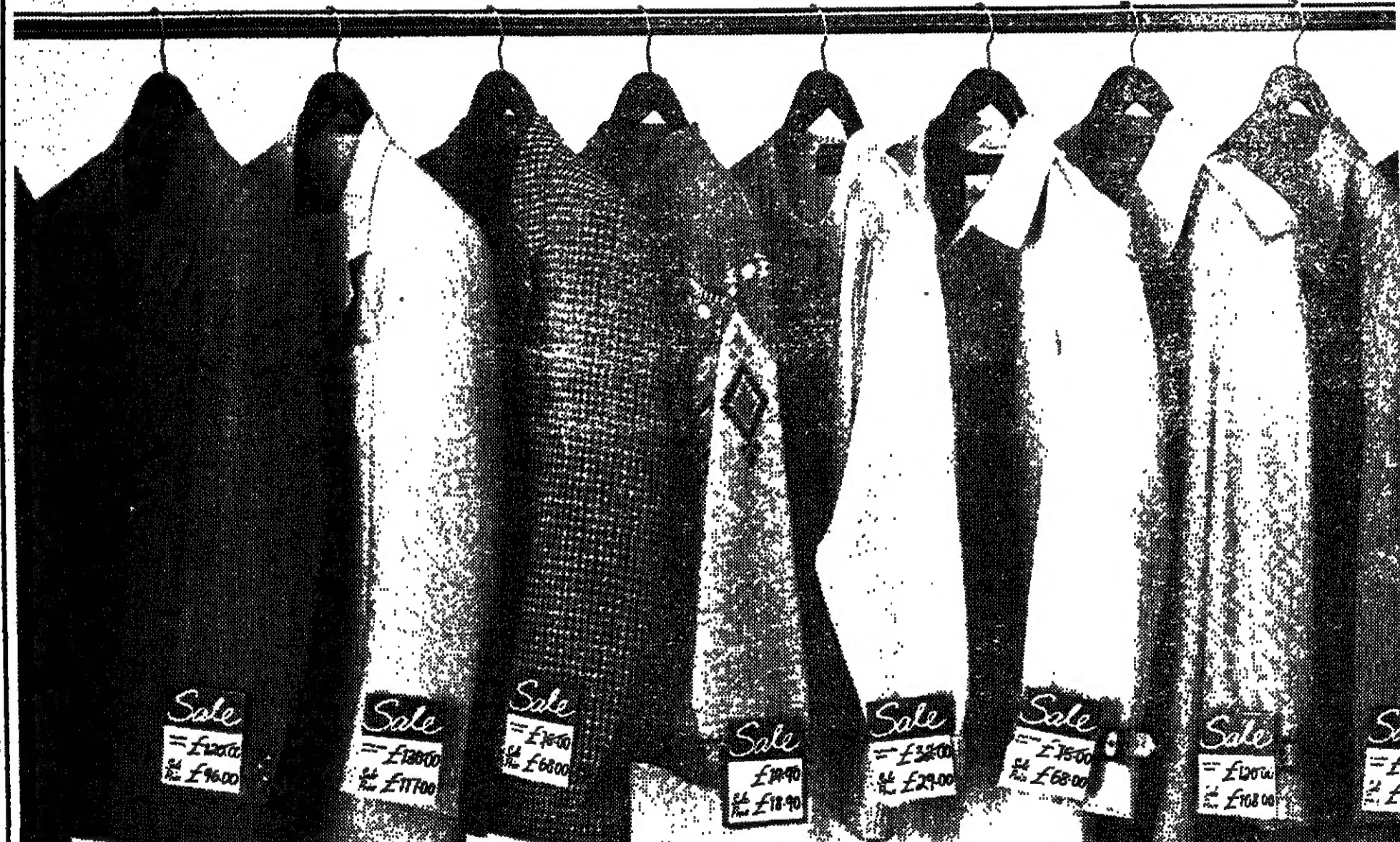
Sydney — A search has been abandoned for the Singapore-registered Singa Sea cargo vessel, feared to have sunk with all 26 crew off the coast of Western Australia.

Briton appeals

A British businessman, Mr Edward Lewin, of Camberley, is to appeal against a three-month prison sentence in Nairobi imposed for tearing up Kenyan banknotes.

Caviar fears

Moscow (Reuters) — Pravda says caviar is becoming an endangered commodity due to pollution of the Volga river spawning ground that has cost £35 million in lost income.



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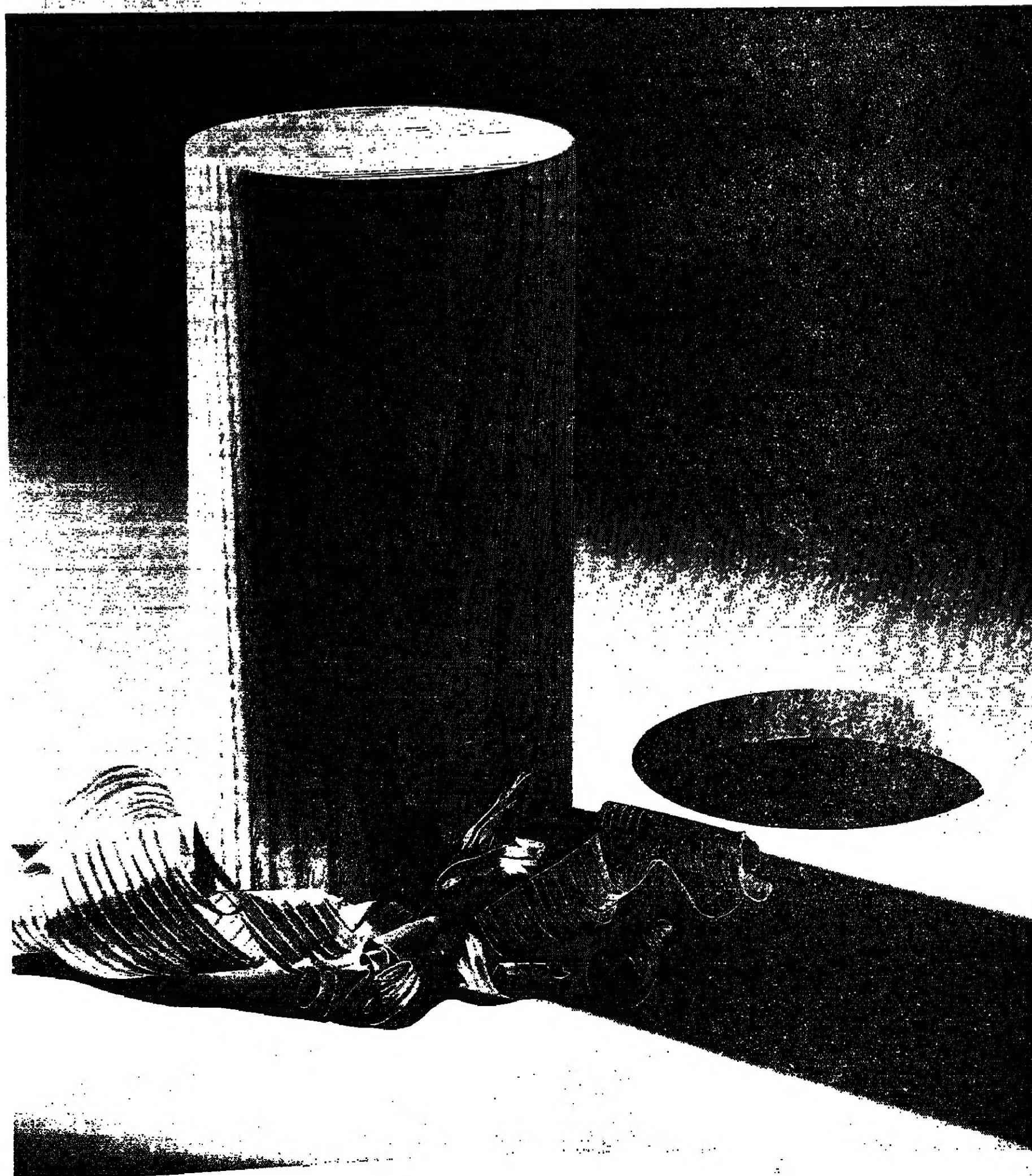
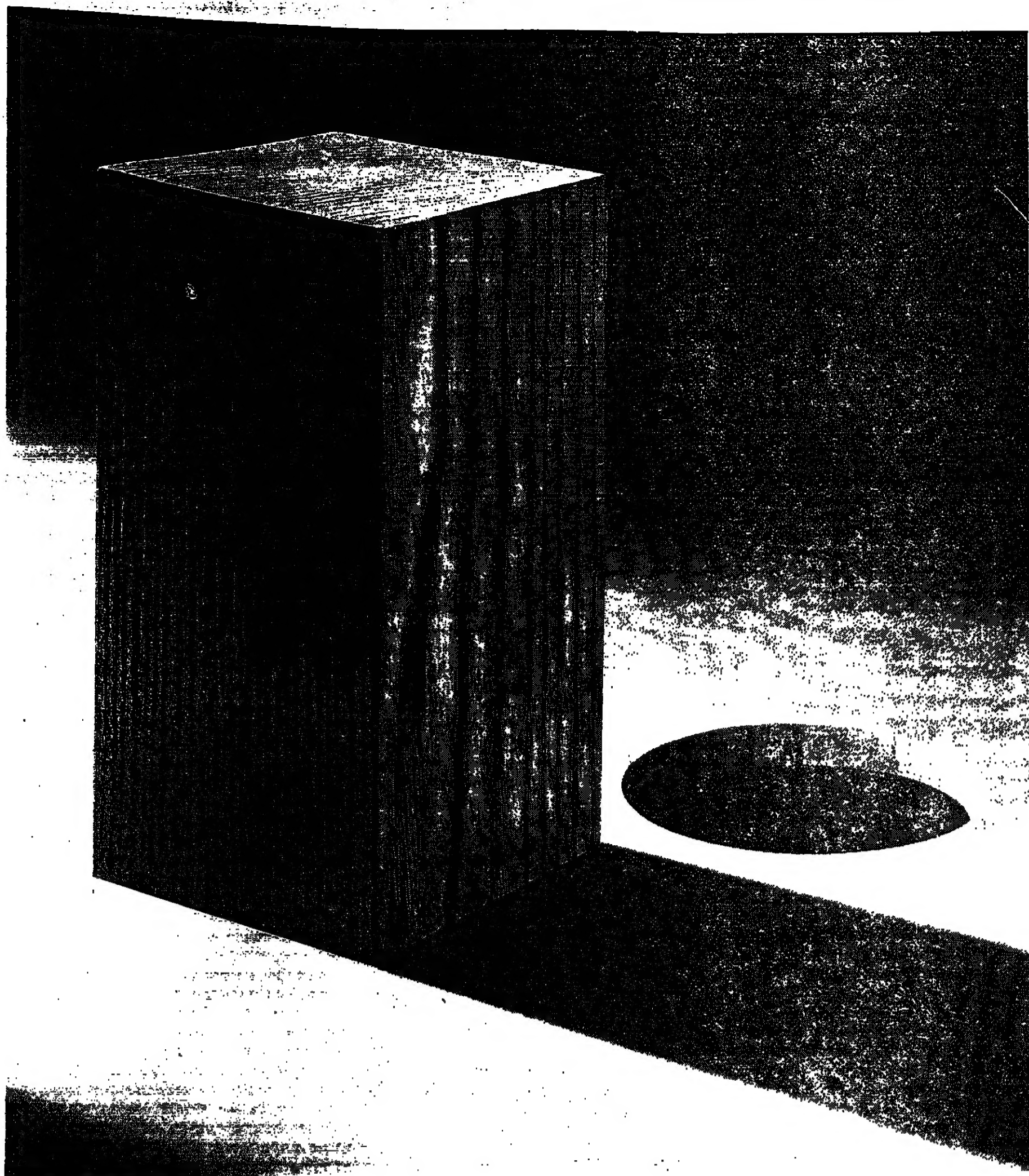
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Number of locations:	Opportunities for trainees: <input type="checkbox"/> Office <input type="checkbox"/> Factory <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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Mexican opposition widens protest campaign as accusations mount of electoral fraud

100,000 gather to reject 'triumph' at polls by Salinas

From Alan Robinson, Mexico City

About 100,000 supporters of the right-wing National Action Party marched through Mexico City on Saturday in a demonstration against alleged widespread fraud in last week's election.

The crowd gathered in the city's central square, the Zócalo, and marched to the Independence Monument in Paseo de la Reforma as part of a mounting civil disobedience campaign called by opposition leaders.

Right-wing demonstrators also joined left-wing protesters outside Televisa, the private television monopoly, which has concentrated its election reporting on the ruling party, virtually ignoring the opposition.

Reports from the north of the country said that National Action Party members had begun blocking main roads in protest at the alleged fraud. The National Democratic Front candidate, Señor Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, said electoral fraud had been "massive".

Señor Cárdenas said that he, Señor Manuel Clouthier, the National Action Party's candidate, and the Mexican Workers' Party leader, Señora Rosario Ibarra de la Piedad, would call a nationwide referendum on the legitimacy of the election if they felt the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party meddled with the voting returns.

Meanwhile, the Federal Electoral Commission, which has been hit by computer problems, was to meet in an all-day session yesterday. A commission source leaked a report, which has not yet been

challenged by the ruling party, that 7,400 had reported instances of fraud. There are nearly 55,000 polling stations nationwide.

At the ruling party's headquarters in Mexico City, computers were receiving information from around the country. A tired and clearly worried official said the party was sure that its candidate, Señor Carlos Salinas de Gortari, had won the presidency. "But the deputies and the senators worry us, they are having a very difficult time," he said.

While Señor Salinas has publicly claimed his triumph, the absence of official figures is bothering the press and the public. The Government originally said it would have many results on midnight of election day, last Wednesday. It claimed that computer lines went down halfway through the day.

Señor Cárdenas openly accused the ruling party of attempting to "make up" figures for release yesterday. According to a preliminary count by his National Democratic Front, Señor Cárdenas got just over 38 per cent of the national vote. Señor Salinas a little more than 32 per cent and Señor Clouthier about 24 per cent.

The ruling party's unofficial calculations are that Señor Salinas got between 45 per cent and 48 per cent of the votes, a considerable decrease on past presidential elections.

If Sunday's results do not satisfy the opposition, the National Action Party's campaign of civil disobedience will spread nationwide, its

supporters said. Señor Cárdenas said that he would refuse to recognize the results if they clashed too wildly with his own group's arithmetic. He has not so far announced a protest campaign, but the feeling is that he might have difficulty holding back his followers, who are convinced that he has been robbed.

If the opposition of left and right do get together to hold the referendum it will be the first in Mexican history. On Saturday no one seemed certain of what the mechanics of such an operation might be.

The alliance between the National Action Party and the group of parties that support Señor Cárdenas is also unprecedented. "Normally they could barely agree on the time of day. Few here doubt that the election results had been influenced by fraudulent practices. But no one can assert whether such influence has been decisive."

The ruling party's president, Señor Jorge de la Vega Domínguez, muddled the water further by claiming that his party had won in 27 states.

Señor Cárdenas replied that the ruling party had "made a tendentious selection of polling booths" to extrapolate a false result.

The opposition parties are exchanging figures among themselves and plan to announce their results after the official figures come out.

Nervous ruling party officials said they would defend their gains and called on supporters to be ready to take to the streets in massive demonstrations if necessary.



Señor Manuel Clouthier, candidate of the National Action Party, greeting some of the 100,000 people who marched through Mexico City on Saturday.

Peronists pick populist leader in primary upset

From Michael Llanos, Buenos Aires

A rural party leader yesterday upset a city-based economist to win the first presidential primary ever held by Argentina's Peronist movement.

Final figures released yesterday showed that Señor Carlos Menem, the underdog and Governor of the small province of La Rioja, polled 53 per cent of the Saturday vote. Señor Antonio Cafiero, the Governor of Buenos Aires, got 46 per cent of the two million votes.

Defeating the party machine

controlled by Señor Cafiero, Señor Menem, who draws most of his support from the grass-roots of the party and trade unions, won in 19 of the 24 electoral districts, including Señor Cafiero's own province. Less than 40 per cent of the 4.1 million members of the Peronist party voted.

Some analysts had predicted a party split regardless of the outcome, but a victorious Señor Menem, aged 53, told supporters: "There are no defeated here." And Señor

Cafiero, aged 65, said after acknowledging defeat that he would work to "get Carlos Menem into the presidency" in 1989.

No incidents were reported during the nationwide primary, marking a break from Peronism's bloody in-fighting and candidacies being picked directly by political and union leaders.

Peron's death in 1974 sparked a long internal battle between unionists, politicians and left-wing revolutionaries.

The unionists were dominant until 1983, when Peronism suffered its first national electoral defeat and the Radical Party's Señor Raúl Alfonsín was elected President.

But many of these traditional union bosses now support Señor Menem, who like Señor Cafiero considers himself a "renewal" Peronist.

Señor Menem, a self-styled political chieftain, will run against the Radical candidate, Señor Eduardo Angeloz, the Governor of Córdoba, in the

presidential elections that are set for May 28, 1989.

The two governors are friends, having studied law together, but the contrasts between them are stark.

Señor Menem, with his rugged complexion and lamb-chop sideburns, emphasises past glories and slogans made famous by Perón. Señor Angeloz, who looks more the traditional statesman, talks about leading Argentina into the 21st century through a technological revolution.

Falklands housing dispute puts future of contract labour at risk

Port Stanley (AP) — A dispute over accommodation for migrant workers in the Falkland Islands has put future contract labour from the island of St Helena at risk, say officials.

The dispute is crucial for St Helena, the Atlantic island where Napoleon was exiled and whose inhabitants of mixed European, Asian and African origin are known as Saints.

Like the Falklands, St Helena is a British colony, but work there is scarce and poorly paid, whereas the Falklands, now enjoying a fishing boom, is suffering from a

labour shortage. The 14 workers from St Helena refused last Tuesday to move from temporary accommodation on the edge of Port Stanley, to other accommodation in a warehouse on a floating dock about three miles from the town. They have been given until 10am today to accept.

The men ignored the instructions to move from Mr Charles Carter, superintendent of public works, and were suspended from work on half pay pending a resolution of the problem.

Mr Gavin Short, chairman of the General Employees' Union,

backed the 14 by calling a support meeting on Thursday, which was well attended. In contrast to the past, when Falklanders opposed recruitment from St Helena, the meeting expressed unanimous support for the workers, who on arrival had joined the union, the only one in the Falklands.

Mr John Crowie, a spokesman for the St Helena workers, said they were troubled by what they alleged was a fire risk in portable cabins placed inside the warehouse, which formed the accommodation prepared for them by the Falklands Government. "Also,

it's so isolated and dark. We wouldn't know if it's daylight or evening. Besides that, it's noisy — ships bang against the side of the dock and generators are going all the time. We've never had such bad accommodation before, even when we worked on Ascension island," Mr Crowie said.

Ascension, 3,500 miles north of the Falklands and 700 miles north-west of St Helena, is a staging post for flights to the Falklands and an important communications point and earth-satellite monitoring base. Most of St Helena's migrant workers are

employed there and living conditions are cramped.

"Up to now I've been happy here," said another of the 14 workers, Mr Fred Duncan. "But now I'd be happy if the Government shipped us back home," he said. The other men in the group said they felt the same way.

Mr Colin Redston, the Falklands acting chief executive, denied that there was a fire risk in the new accommodation. He said the government fire officer had produced a list of recommendations which had been implemented.

St Helena's social services offi-

cer, Mrs Ivy Ellick, arrived in Stanley the day the 14 workers were suspended, bringing the names of 117 more Saints applying for work in the Falklands.

"I'm very worried about this," Mrs Ellick said after talking to officials in Stanley. "Our economy on St Helena depends on whatever people we can get away to find work — our unemployment rate is very high."

There are 130 Saints working in the Falklands at present, mostly in the public works department, the hospital and in catering and stores at the Mount Pleasant military

airfield. The 14 workers have been allowed to stay where they are for the time being, provided they pay an extra £12 a week for electricity and cleaning, which the Government had met until the dispute. The men already pay £25.20 a week for their food.

Mr Carter said he was surprised that the 14 men preferred their present accommodation, which required them to travel three miles to the floating dock for their meals. If the Saints' contracts were terminated it would be a serious blow to his department because of the labour shortage.

Hong Kong campaign

Lawyers to lobby Westminster MPs over draft constitution

From Thomson Prentice, Hong Kong

The growing fears of millions of Hong Kong residents about their future under Chinese rule after Britain's withdrawal from the territory in 1997 will be brought home to the Government in London this week.

Delegations representing the colony's legal profession will arrive tomorrow and on Wednesday to begin intensive lobbying of MPs before the crucial debate in the House of Commons next Friday on the draft constitution for Hong Kong recently put forward by the Chinese.

The lawyers have already described the document as "fundamentally unacceptable" and say it will deny Hong Kong the high degree of autonomy it was promised in a Sino-British agreement signed three years ago.

In addition, a pressure group of Hong Kong citizens, called the Observers, is travelling to London to warn that the present exodus of thousands of families will become a stampede unless the Government can persuade them that it is safe to stay.

But at least 50,000 people are expected to quit the colony this year. About 100,000 have

gone in the past four years and some predict that between 500,000 and a million will have fled before the handover in June, 1997.

Those who leave are mainly young, talented, middle-class Chinese businessmen, professionals and their families, most of whose parents sought refuge in Hong Kong after the communist revolution in China 40 years ago.

Of Hong Kong's population of 5.6 million, 98 per cent are Chinese and about half are either refugees or the descendants of refugees. Most still have relatives in China and are keenly aware of the huge gap in freedom and living standards between the communist and capitalist systems.

"The people leaving here now are not running away from the unknown, they know exactly what they are escaping from," Mrs Emily Lau, an economics writer and member of the Observers group, said yesterday. "They are protecting their children's future as well as their own."

Her half brother was killed by communists in the 1950s and her family lost everything during the revolution. "I



Sir David Wilson: Drew attention to guarantees.

wouldn't rule out the scenario of riots and demonstrations in the streets when Britain pulls out. It's going to be very traumatic because we're being taken over by communists, whom we hate and who terrify us," she said.

Virtually every company and business is losing key personnel in the "brain drain" to Canada, the US and Australia, despite offers of huge salary increases, bonuses and other incentives to make them stay. Every day there are long queues of would-be emigrants outside consular offices.

Household removal firms are booked solid for months

ahead, travel agencies are overwhelmed and a new magazine providing emigration advice is being launched.

Such activity is having a demoralizing effect on many who are staying behind, Dr Anthony Ng, a surgeon and local councillor said.

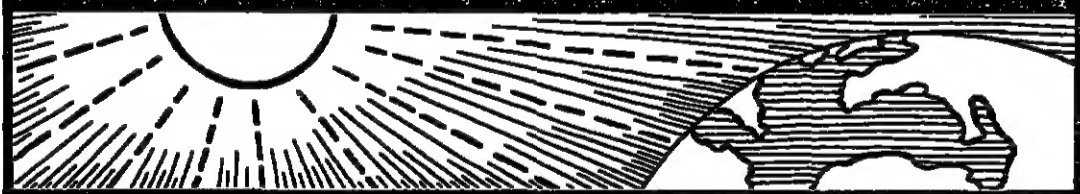
"Some of them are resigned to communist rule because they don't have the money or the qualifications to get out," he said. "But many others are very resentful and they are like a time bomb ticking away. The nearer it gets to 1997, the more likely it is to explode on the streets of Hong Kong."

Sir David Wilson, the Governor of Hong Kong, has acknowledged the groundswell of anxiety and has drawn attention to the guarantees that the rights, freedoms and lifestyles of the population will be protected for 50 years after Britain's lease on the territory expires.

Foreign investment continues to pour into the territory with the Japanese in particular increasing their stake. Many business leaders remain optimistic and see China not as a threat but as a huge new market with Hong Kong as the gateway to it.

Hong Kong fears, page 14

IS YOUR DEODORANT COSTING THE EARTH?



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by MENNEN

Angola peace talks move to New York

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Negotiators from Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States meet in New York today to pursue the search for peace in Angola and independence for Namibia, a former German colony which has been under South African control since the First World War.

The meeting is the latest in a series that began on May 3 and 4 in London and the first since the fighting between South African forces and Cuban-supported Angolan troops on June 27 in and around the Calaceque Dam, just inside Angola's south-western border.

The clash came after several weeks of South African complaints about a build-up of Cuban troops in south-western Angola close to the border with Namibia, a region where they had previously not been deployed.

Pretoria's delegation at the New York

meeting, which is being held at the "experts level", is headed by the country's Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerde, and the Chief of the Defence Force, General Jannie Geldenhuys.

The Angolan and Cuban negotiators have not yet been named. The Americans, who have been acting as mediators in the talks, will be represented by Mr Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

All parties have now accepted the principle of "linkage" between a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and a South African pull-out from southern Angola and Namibia and the implementation of the United Nations independence plan for Namibia.

There is still, however, a chasm to be bridged on the timetable. Pretoria is also trying to add a condition for granting independence to Namibia — the formation of a coalition government in Angola

between the MPLA, the present rulers, and the South African-backed Unita forces of Dr Jonas Savimbi, which operate from bases in the south-western part of the country.

Secret Jet: South Africa has a secret new jet fighter which it hopes will tip the scales in the battle for air superiority in Angola, the Sunday Times, an independent Johannesburg newspaper said yesterday (Reuters reports). The paper said the aircraft was a modified version of South Africa's Cheesah jet, which is itself a locally-developed variant of the French Mirage III, and was a match for Soviet-built MIG-23 aircraft flown by Cuban pilots in Angola.

Asked to comment on the report, a South African Air Force spokesman said: "It's part of a programme of conversion of Mirage IIIs into Cheesahs."

A defence analyst said that until recently South Africa had a near-complete command of the air.

SPECTRUM

All quiet on the rural front line

Rural violence is on the increase, and the Thames Valley is no exception.

Alan Franks spent Saturday night in Aylesbury, a town singled out by the Home Secretary as a typical trouble spot

Nothing happened in Aylesbury on Saturday night. This is news, since the Buckinghamshire market town, once the very image of a blissful country community, is now considered to be among the growing number of focal points for rural violence.

If you want an authority for that view, you need look no further than the Home Secretary, who in a May speech to the Police Federation, cited poor old, or rather rich new, Aylesbury as a trouble spot defacing the features of an increasingly lawless Britain.

For a while on Saturday night, around the time the Bull and Crown disgorges and the youngsters move on to the Lobster Pot for the last half hour's drinking, you can see the basis of the Hurd instinct: kids everywhere, literally hundreds of them, in gaggles rather than gangs, the boys outnumbering the girls nine to one, all roaming the market square and the narrow lanes, not loitering but striding, and hardly a scruff among them.

There is a strange sense of purpose about their perambulations, considering that the young of Aylesbury don't really have anywhere to go to in the town centre on Saturday nights, which is just one of the problems. If you had been told that something untoward was about to take place, it would figure.

But all that happens tonight is that the pubs empty, the take-aways fill up, someone is sick on the cobbles, and - most interesting of all - sombre saloon cars with lit signs on the roof begin to appear; taxi upon taxi, suddenly gathering from the surrounding web of country lanes and filling the square like an army of occupation. There are now 30 firms serving the area and, on nights like this, doing a brisk trade with the well-heeled young.

There have been a few incidents earlier, a "stabbing" at the carnival, which turns out to be a small nick with a straight knife; a

man trying to break into a women's refuge, and a disturbance at a pub on one of the large estates.

A patrol car with two young constables roars off, lights flashing. At the pub there's not the sniff of a punch-up, just a figure slumped against the forecourt wall like a very early Guy Fawkes.

"Oh, it's only Dave," says the younger policeman. He sounds relieved, but maybe just a bit cheated too. "Come on, Dave, into the car." Dave resists, without knowing it, by falling over again, but it's a one-sided struggle.

"Do we know him? Let's put it this way, I suppose there's a few weeks pass when he doesn't get taken in." Off to the station, with the disturbance now safely slumped in the rear seat. There is something resigned, rather than resentful, in the way the officer speaks of his regular client. "He's just a social inadequate. Not really violent. Hopeless, just hopeless."

The Aylesbury Posse is not out tonight, which is lucky for everyone, including the Aylesbury Posse. This is a not very organized and not particularly brave group of 30 or 40 youths who don't quite manage to go on rampages. They are at least non-racist, with black members as well as whites. A few weeks ago they found themselves in a nearby village, next to the police house. The sole officer on duty tried to arrest one of them, but lost his prisoner when another threw a club at him. The rest just bolted, thinking there was a large force out, and next morning the front garden was littered with hastily-abandoned clubs and knives.

So why did Douglas Hurd pick on Aylesbury? What is its "form"? The local police agree that in the past five or six years, public order has deteriorated badly here, just as it has done in most of the other market towns of the Thames Valley. On average there are now two or three serious disturbances in the town each



Going quietly: an arrest in Aylesbury's market square, unusually for a Saturday, the only disturbance in a town all too often troubled by violence

year, by which they mean incidents involving about 150 youths, with a police presence of 20 or more, and 12 arrests.

As revealed today in a survey of chief constables' annual reports (see page 3), the Thames Valley force had to deal with 69 serious incidents of public disorder between April 1, 1987 and the end of the year. A total of 380 people were arrested and 63 officers injured. Aylesbury's worst incident of the past two years was on Christmas Eve 1986, when a detective who intervened in a pub fight received a back injury so severe that he has had to retire from the force.

In this town, as elsewhere, the

police are facing a dilemma. On the one hand, as the Association of Chief Police Officers accepts, the mere presence of the police can act as an irritant to groups of youngsters out on the town; on the other, there is an acute manpower shortage. On this Saturday night, with a population of 52,000, is policed by no more than 10 officers.

In the event of serious trouble, they could call on reinforcements from the neighbouring districts of Thame, Milton Keynes and High Wycombe, as well as from motorway patrols. As one officer put it: "It's always a question of what might happen. That's the danger when there are so many

people gathered together. All of a sudden, before you know it, a tiny incident can swell into something really ugly... it sometimes worries me what the real trouble-makers would do if they knew just how stretched we are."

Aylesbury, he believes, is cited by the Home Secretary, precisely because it sounds like such an improbable theatre of conflict. True enough, it carries all the overtones of an English hotel chain's brochure: it is one of those places where all food is layre and anything built before the civic hall is old.

But the reality is a long way from the cosy print on the table mat. Before you get from the

railway station to the market square there are the heavy urban symptoms of multi-storey car parks, massive coach station and shopping centre. The stores in the square are teeming with trade and right through into the late afternoon and beyond there is a steady queue (again, mostly young) at the bank Service. There are five pages of jobs in the *Bucks Herald*, whole walls of opportunity at the JobCentre, and new offices burgeoning on the rim of the town. Estate agents are booming so loud that they are pleading for staff through their own property fliers. There is also the man who has lived in Aylesbury for 15 years and who will no longer let

his wife go near the market square on a Saturday, "... not even in the afternoon. You just don't know what's going to happen."

If unemployment is at the heart of social unrest and violence, then something odd is happening not just in Aylesbury, but in the other Thames Valley market towns like Banbury, Thame, Bicester, High Wycombe and Henley. "We're talking about young people with secure and well-paid jobs," says Assistant Chief Constable Charles Pollard, the area force's officer in charge of operations. "They are very much a part of the new prosperity. Of course a lot of their money does go on drink on some occasions, but that's not the whole story."

He has made some effort to work out the reasons, he says. "Frankly, I'm stumped. I'm afraid I have to come back to the conclusion that it has to do with a growing lack of respect for authority, a knowledge that doesn't sound very original, but I have to believe it. I'm afraid. You do hear it said that although this is a Prime Minister who's strong on law and order, she's also quite anti-establishment in her own way, quite aggressively independent, and so on. I don't know..."

What he does claim to know is that until the area's officer-to-citizen ratio is improved from its level of one to 573 towards the average level of 498, public order problems in Aylesbury and the rest will remain serious.

Back at the station, still silent towards midnight, sits duty Inspector Richard Maskell, who has seen it all in the course of 25 years service - from the village bobby through to the Panda patrols and back to the area beat officer. "Yes, there's an exaggeration. The Home Secretary says Aylesbury and everyone expects a pitched battle every Saturday night, with riot shields and good news knows what else. What I can't disagree with is that the whole thing has got worse, out of all recognition, in the last five years, maybe even less."

Meanwhile, between the Bull and Crown and the Lobster Pot, one of his officers at the wheel of a stationary car greets a passer-by like an old friend. "Evening, R..." R... goes on his way, and the officer explains: "He's out on bail at the moment, for attacking a fellow in bed with a shillelagh. That's what I call daft."

Congratulations and undulations

The first British free-style belly dancing championships were held yesterday.

Byron Rogers reports

There should have been fountains and girls bringing sherbert and those large chaps with the odd voices who reminded Osbert Sitwell of the Bloomsbury Set. For the two hours a corner of Mablethorpe became Old Sammy Stamboul yesterday.

Instead the rain beat on the massed caravans, the winds blew and the North Sea crashed just a few hundred yards away when they held the first British free-style belly dancing championships. It was all wrong.

They held them in a windowless bunker with barbed wire round the back and it was lunch time in one of those outposts of the human spirit, a club in a holiday camp. The campers had crowded in, hoping to see something, anything to break the monotony of an English holiday. The dancers had brought mothers-in-law, husbands, children. The press had come to sneer.

And the truly amazing thing was that suddenly there was nothing to sneer at. As soon as the music started and the first silken pelvis came up like a steam hammer all the western fantasies about the Orient were loose in Mablethorpe.

"I told yer," said Jeff Barry, who last week held the British Punch and



Roll call: Michelle Brattil (left) and Sherry Dorey, the new champion Judy championships here. A veteran impresario of Y-front leaping competitions and Wellington boot throwing, Barry was the only beguener of an event which he hopes to take into Europe in the 1990s. "I always deliver," he said.

Flesh girated, wobbled, guiped, navals closed and opened like eyes winking, and the white thighs flashed through the whirling chiffon. Blimey, old son, you hadn't banked at seeing any of this.

They were such nice girls. They posed in the rain for the photog-

raphers in practically nothing at all, admired each other's costumes or lack of them ("that's lovely, did you make it?"), and showed concern about the amplifiers ("so long as the music don't go right down the public's ear holes.")

They knew what they were on about and they did it. Some had danced in Turkey, one had a costume which, if bought new, would have cost her £2,000, and they knew their peers, the Egyptian dancers Fifi Abdul and Malik, whom they had seen dance on video.

Denise Whittle, a doctor's wife from Blackpool, formerly a magistrate's clerk, has been belly dancing for 14 years. Now 32, and just 4ft 11in, she reflected that fitness was an advantage.

"Malik has got the fat distributed so perfectly she can do the sea wave, when the fat shakes all round her midriff shakes like a plate turning on a stick," she said.

No, it had not interfered with her career ("when I've got my glasses off nobody recognizes me and I don't recognize anybody"). Squinting sulkily into the lights, her hand waving like a bloom above her head, Mrs Whittle whirled one moment arrogant and then the next softly yielding, as the kettle drums waxed and waned.

To see her so and then to find yourself confronted by her one morning in a magistrates' court must be a terrible assault on your hold on reality. "But it has done my ego a power of good," said Mrs Whittle. "When I dance I'm six feet tall."

Her husband was babysitting out-

side in the car. What did he make of it? "Not a lot," said Dr Andrew Whittle. "I don't mind it, but then I've seen such a lot now. Stop it Ian." A tiny boy was crawling along the instrument panel.

Most of the dancers were professional, said Mrs Michelle Brattil of Cleethorpes ("my husband's Norwegian, my dad's French and my mother was half German"). She has danced in the Middle East, where she's related to no one and where the enthusiasts stuff money into a dancer's bra.

"People need educating over here. All they shout in the clubs is 'get them off' and it's very good for you, belly dancing, much better than jogging, only English women can't let their hips go."

The oldest was Mrs Molly Johnson, aged 58, of Harold Hill in Essex ("in belly dancing age doesn't matter"). A clerical assistant, she said everyone needed a hobby. She'd come to it from ballroom dancing, as Mrs Whittle had from the morris dancing.

Mrs Sherry Dorey, a blonde diletante from Nottingham for whom Sultans in another time would have sold half the sheep in Anatolia, here watched by her daughter aged three, came first. Mrs Whittle came second.

And all afternoon the rain fell as in the caravans the curtains were drawn.

MUSEUM SUMMER

The telephone number of The Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre (Spectrum June 24) is 031 220 0441; the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (June 23) is open every day except Sunday.



TOMORROW

Ludovic Kennedy interviews Sir Peter Imbert, Metropolitan Police chief

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SCIENCE REPORT

Lighting up the eye's secrets

How we see is a problem of perennial fascination. Much effort has been devoted over the past 20 years to unravelling the first step in the process: the conversion of light energy into electrical signals in the nervous system. The effort has now paid off and the puzzle missing pieces in the puzzle are reported in three papers in this week's *Nature* and the other to be published in the *Journal of Physiology*. A coherent picture of this conversion process, called phototransduction, has finally emerged.

The story of this success is not a simple one. The phototransduction process, which takes place in the light receptor cells in the retina, starts when a photon of light is captured by the photosensitive pigment rhodopsin. A complex chain of biochemical reactions

is triggered, leading ultimately to a change in the electrical potential in the receptor cell membrane. The change in potential generates the signal that is passed through the optic nerve to the brain.

For many years the key question was the nature of the link between the activation of rhodopsin and the change in membrane potential. Two competing possibilities emerged. One involved calcium ions and the other a small organic molecule called cyclic guanylate mononucleotide (cGMP). For a long time calcium was the odds-on favourite. But in 1985 this theory was surprisingly displaced when a group in Moscow announced evidence proving that cGMP directly controls the channels in the membrane through which ions flow and so regulates the

change in membrane potential.

Cyclic GMP was quickly confirmed as the missing link between the photons of light and the change in potential. But the whole story was not yet clear. As a result of light activation, cGMP is used up, but it was not known how it was replenished. Another problem was to explain a related property of the receptor cells: adaptation of their responses to different levels of light, so that they can signal small changes in intensity against a bright background.

The latest research now fills in these gaps. What is more, honour is satisfied, as the new work provides calcium with an important role, as the factor that controls both recovery of cGMP levels and the adaptation of receptor cells. An accompanying commentary in

Nature shows how these new results dovetail with the 1985 observations to provide a complete and comprehensive theory of phototransduction.

In clever and technically tricky experiments, Trevor Lamb and colleagues in Cambridge, and K. Nakatani and K.W. Yau at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, trapped calcium at a fixed level inside receptor cells from salamanders. This enabled them to demonstrate that the internal calcium concentration is directly related to the level of adaptation. Lamb's neighbours in Cambridge, Alan Hodgkin and Brian Nunn, have shown that the calcium concentration regulates the activity of the enzyme, guanylate cyclase, that replaces cGMP.

Previously, it had been dis-

puted whether guanylate cyclase was sufficiently sensitive to calcium for this mechanism to work. But now Karl-Wilhelm Koch and Lubert Stryer, at Stanford University, report the discovery of a calcium-dependent protein that modulates the enzyme's activity to give it the correct sensitivity.

So calcium turns out to play a key role in phototransduction after all, though not the one originally championed. Transduction of the chemical signals of smell and taste are thought to involve similar biochemical processes. So maybe the resolution of the phototransduction mechanism will illuminate the workings of some of our other sensory processes too.

Jennifer Altman

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THE ARTS

Ludwig, just plain difficult

Wittgenstein is the central character in a novel exploring his philosophical revolution, Bryan Appleyard reports

Towards the end of Orson Welles' film *Citizen Kane*, the anonymous journalist who has been trying to discover the significance of Kane's last word, "Rosebud", finally concedes defeat.

A few moments later Welles gives us, the audience, the missing piece; but the revelation has already been subverted by the journalist's words, "I don't think any word can explain a man's life", and we are left holding nothing more than a completed jigsaw. The belief that the missing piece was all we needed was naive.

It was such a realization of the incompleteness of all answers that nagged incessantly at the mind of Ludwig Wittgenstein throughout his life.

For him the jigsaw was the game played by scientists. Steadily, through the work of generations, they would build up a picture of the world, plotting each observation on the huge chart of scientific knowledge.

The process might seem endless but, according to the logic of science itself, it could one day be completed. But then?

Wittgenstein was a philosopher whose work still teases, baffles and infuriates other philosophers. He published only one book in

his lifetime, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* in 1921, and the remainder of his writings were only assembled and issued in book form after his death in 1951.

The most important of these posthumous publications was *Philosophical Investigations*, which some would claim to be one of the most powerful, moving and significant documents of our age.

Next year will be the centenary of the philosopher's birth and, in anticipation, Secker & Warburg are about to publish a strange and possibly unique novel about his life.

Bruce Duffy's *The World As I Found It*, an absorbing combination of philosophy and high-class soap opera, was published, to critical acclaim, in America last year.

Its title derives from a remark by Wittgenstein in the *Tractatus*. "If I wrote a book called *The World As I Found It*", he wrote, "I should have to include a report on my body, and should have to say which parts were subordinate to my will, and which were not, etc, this being a method of isolating the subject, or rather of showing that in an important sense there is no subject; for it alone could not be mentioned in that book."

Duffy's book is fiction — he



The mental wrestlers: left to right, G.E. Moore, restless Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Bertrand Russell

admits deliberately altering some facts for his own convenience, and clearly the detailed scene dramatizations must be largely invention — but its outlines are facts. Those facts concern, primarily,

the weird and complex relationship between three men: Wittgenstein, Bertrand Russell and G.E. Moore. But there can be no doubt that the book has only one hero.

The relationship began when Wittgenstein, born in Vienna to an immensely wealthy family, arrived in Cambridge in 1908 to study under Russell. Russell was already the great

philosopher of his day. His work on the foundations of mathematics and on logic had established him as the only man who could have dealt with the terribly brilliant young Austrian. Moore, also at Cambridge, was another major philosopher.

His main work had been in moral philosophy, but he was also, through his life, to worry away at the more fundamental problem of what we could, with any degree of certainty, know.

Duffy's Moore is shy, modest and diffident; his Russell is flamboyant, compulsively promiscuous and intellectually vain. Wittgenstein, meanwhile, is just plain, bloody difficult.

When Wittgenstein picks holes in Moore's arguments, Moore retreats and then tries to re-establish his position. But Russell fights back, only in the end to be demoralized. In Duffy's version the effect of Wittgenstein is, ultimately, to turn Russell away from fundamental philosophy and towards the political and social moralizing of his later career.

This is at the heart of Duffy's drama. Wittgenstein's early insight into the futility and irrelevance of much preceding philosophy as well as his unforgiving and uncompromising personality combine to corrode the confidence of Russell and Moore. It is an interpretation which would be anathema to A.J. Ayer.

RADIO America: images shaping reality

Having heard the first two of Christopher Frayling's seven-part *America — The Movie* (Radio 4, Saturdays) I know now what I had hitherto only suspected: in spite of all that university could do, my picture of American history consists mostly of what I have gleaned from the movies. As Frayling puts it, American cinema conveys "an informal history of the American people and what has been on its collective mind", but the emphasis is on "informal" for that history has been heavily refashioned before proceeding in its turn to refashion the model which gave it birth. Cowboys, for example, whom the cinema adapted as vehicles for a whole set of preoccupations, subsequently began to imitate the cinema in dress behaviour. And the imitation has become the image.

All that was in part one. Part two was devoted to John Ford and told how romanticism and an obsession with historical accuracy combined to create a string of classic films. But the mixture led him into some odd situations: the historian in Ford insisted that, since the railway line from east to west was built by Chinese labour, that was what he would depict; but the romantic could not resist hiring the survivors of the original gangs, by then old men barely able to swing a pick. So *America — The Movie* is an absorbing subject superlatively well presented and scripted, with interview and archive woven by John Powell's production into something which itself has the flavour of the films it so eloquently recalls.

Powell gives radio's well-known pictorial abilities a good deal of assistance: this is wide-screen, panoramic radio in full mega colour. In *As It Looked Then* (Radio 4, Saturdays) Sir Geoffrey Cox, founder of ITN, relies on the sound equivalent of black and white newsreel which, as we know, is in its own way incomparably evocative. As a young foreign correspondent, Sir Geoffrey had the luck to be at the right places at the time of the Anschluss in 1938 and the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939. His first talk brought back the life which he and his colourful colleagues led, and he reminded us how even in those times of crisis the newspaper proprietors were still able to exclude the BBC. Forbidden to broadcast news before 6pm, it was forced to rely on agencies for its reports and was simply not represented among the journalists in Vienna and Prague. It took the war to put a stop to that.

If this is history seen with a sharp, objective eye, then *A Short Walk From London To Venice* (Radio 3, Sunday; producer, Piers Plowright) offered a view of early 17th century Europe akin to what might nowadays be provided by the better type of tourist. In 1608 Thomas Coryate, gentleman of Somerset, travelled on foot and horseback to Venice, the sight of which, he declared, he would not trade for any property in his native county. He published an account of his journey, which, while Steer had drawn the entertaining compilation. Here in a tone of faint righteousness, common in English travellers to this very day, he cautioned his fellow countrymen at length against the licentious ways of the natives. Their vices obviously fascinated him.

David Wade

Sorry Joan, but wrong dynasty

TELEVISION

At last the truth can be told. Blear-eyed from a night of mini-series I hit upon the solution to one of the great puzzles of the 20th century. Is *Anastasia* (BBC1) still alive? Did the Grand Duchesses survive the slaughter of the Romanovs in 1918? It is clear that she cannot be the wimp-like Amy Irving, who spent an hour or so hiding under the bed clothes to avoid the blinding glare of some of the flashiest scenery ever assembled on BBC1. Besides, anybody with the slightest knowledge of the Romanovs would have been able to spot that this Grand Duke Cyril was no more than an almost lifelike plastic model of Rex Harrison, and that Tsar Nicholas was somebody's joke about Karl Marx playing *Oscar Sharif*.

No, the line that gave it away came from George Hamilton in *Monte Carlo* (ITV). "She says she's Russian but she speaks English like a Duchess." That's it: pretty conclusive, wouldn't you say? *Anastasia*, escaping from the assassination attempt, decided to become the mysterious Russian singer Katriona Petrovna. The role is especially convincing as she cannot sing at all. Yes, beyond a doubt *Anastasia* is none other than

Joan Collins, the pampered aristocrat who takes time off from her husky cabaret to rush home and send a few coded messages to British intelligence. Not very effectively, it must be admitted, for she does not prevent the English taking the highly unlikely step of sending in bombers to pick off the guests at a Monte Carlo Beach Club party. "What's your story?" said George. "I'm not a novel," said Joan, revealing she has not made up that *Anastasia* story. "I think I owe you an apology," said Joan, who co-produced this mini-series. "That's the first thing we've agreed on since we met," said George, speaking for us all.

At least in *Final Run* (BBC2), the latest Irish thriller from the BBC, the plot was worth working out through the complex web of allusions and flashbacks in the first 10 minutes, and the drama was a good deal faster than the last Irish effort. Michael, who had been laundering money from an Irish bank to fund the IRA, ended up in prison, but had just been released with a quick change of identity to spy for the other side. The personal issues of including wife and child in this threatening saga were well drawn. The King's direction was highly strong.

William Holmes

James Goldsmith has financed his first film. Marcel Berlins asks why Mogul who saved the whales

Sir James Goldsmith could easily afford to buy an entire film studio. Indeed, a few years ago, he nearly bought Columbia Pictures. Instead, one of the richest men in the world has entered the film industry quietly, without publicity.

Filming has just finished on Sir James's first venture into cinema. *Why the Whales Came*, a working title likely soon to be changed, is modest in scope and, by the standards of today's film budgets, cheap at £2.25 million. Goldsmith's stake is £1.2 million.

Film folk and finance pundits are puzzled. What, they ask, is he up to? Over the past few years he has dived himself of most of his corporate holdings. He sold almost all his shares before the October crash, and now spends much of his time building a spectacular house in Mexico. Is his entry into films the start of a comeback into mega-finance? Does he want to be the new saviour of the yet again declining British film industry? More sinister, does he see the cinema as a vehicle for his passionately expressed right-wing political views? "I have no movie mogul ambitions. It is not part of a business strategy. I have no great plans," he emphasized in his first and only interview on the subject. "I liked the story for personal and idio-



Outcast: Paul Scofield as a lonely, old man in *Why the Whales Came*.

syncratic reasons; and I liked the people involved."

The story tells of an old legend on the tiny island of Bryher, one of the Scilly Isles, where all the filming took place. The killing of a narwhal whale in the 19th century brought a curse on the island; at

the time of the film's action, the start of the First World War, the whales come again.

It is also a gentle, moving story of an old and lonely man, played by Paul Scofield, and his friendship with two young children. The film, which also stars Helen Mirren, David Schofield and David Threlfall, will be released before Christmas.

"It has two elements which particularly appeal to me," says Goldsmith. "One is the story of a man, deaf and alone, an outcast whom the islanders consider a lunatic, and dangerous. But in reality this man is full of wisdom. The other aspect that appeals is the story of the destruction of the

whales and the damage it's done to the local community. It's an overwhelming symbol."

Goldsmith insisted that he would put up his stake only if nearly half the finance was raised from other sources. The film's director, Clive Rees, who originated the project, has risked a substantial amount of his own money. An award-winning director of commercials, including the Esso Tiger ones, he has never before directed a feature. Central Television bought the television rights and most of the balance has come from an American financier, Charles H Keating Jr.

In charge of this and any future Goldsmith film or television projects is Geoffrey Wansell, a former journalist on *The Times*, and twice Goldsmith's biographer (as well as Cary Grant's).

Wansell is looking as much to Europe as to America for future films under the Golden Swan banner (named after the Frankfurt ghetto home of Goldsmith's ancestors). "I am convinced that high quality British-made English-language films have a tremendous potential in Europe, both in cinemas and in the greatly expanding television market."

Goldsmith sums up his ambitions thus: "I'm delighted to do things which I find agreeable as a concept and agreeable as to the people involved. Films will be chosen on a purely idiosyncratic basis by a man who is semi-retired and has enough money to lose if necessary. They will be the kind of films that fit in with my own views — I don't mean political views, we're not going to make political films — and I will never put money into a project whose themes or action shock me."

JAZZ

Al Green Hammersmith Odeon

As it is more than a decade since Al Green gave up singing million-selling secular soul songs in favour of a full-time devotion to gospel music, it would take an extreme optimist to expect him suddenly to turn one of his concerts into an oldies show.

Yet that is what his London audience appeared to be hoping for on Friday, during his first British appearance for four years. They were unmistakably willing him to cut out the sacred stuff and give them instead the hits of the early Seventies, like "Tired of Being Alone" and "Love and Happiness".

Dashing on to the stage in his trademark vanilla suit, with a sheaf of long-stemmed red roses for the ladies of the front stalls, Green quickly affirmed his attention: five minutes into the show, he and his three backing singers

were passionately urging us to "sing the holy name of Jesus". Since the exaltation was backed by the tightly focused funk of a fine nine-piece band, many unbelievers found themselves on their feet.

Green ran the gamut of gospel techniques, and then some. He tore up and down the scales, shaking hands and dispensing roses, occasionally blurring out snatches of the sort of sermon he delivers to his congregation at the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church in Memphis. In what seemed to be a relatively spontaneous show, he ranged from the potent rhythms and blues of "Jesus will Fix It" to a single pianissimo chorus of "Amazing Grace", constantly teasing us to the brink of ecstasy.

Inevitably though, the audience's inherent cynicism in the face of such a message was always going to prevent him from attaining the heights no doubt familiar to worshippers at the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church.

That reservation aside, it was a thrilling show.

Richard Williams

ROCK

John Lee Hooker Hammersmith Odeon

Playing the blues is not a career noted for its beneficial effect on life expectancy. At 70, John Lee Hooker is the last of the pivotal American performers who migrated from the rural South to the urban North in the Forties.

Based in Detroit, he carved out a reputation that paralleled those of the legendary Chicago players: Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson, Howlin' Wolf et al. Like them, Hooker developed a repertoire of hard-nosed, electric urban blues material that has since become a staple source for rock musicians, from the R'n'B groups of the Sixties beat boom era to Bruce Springsteen (who currently features a version of "Boom Boom" in his live show). Hooker included "Boom Boom" in his Hammersmith set, his backing

band rendering it as a typically taut, wiggling boogie.

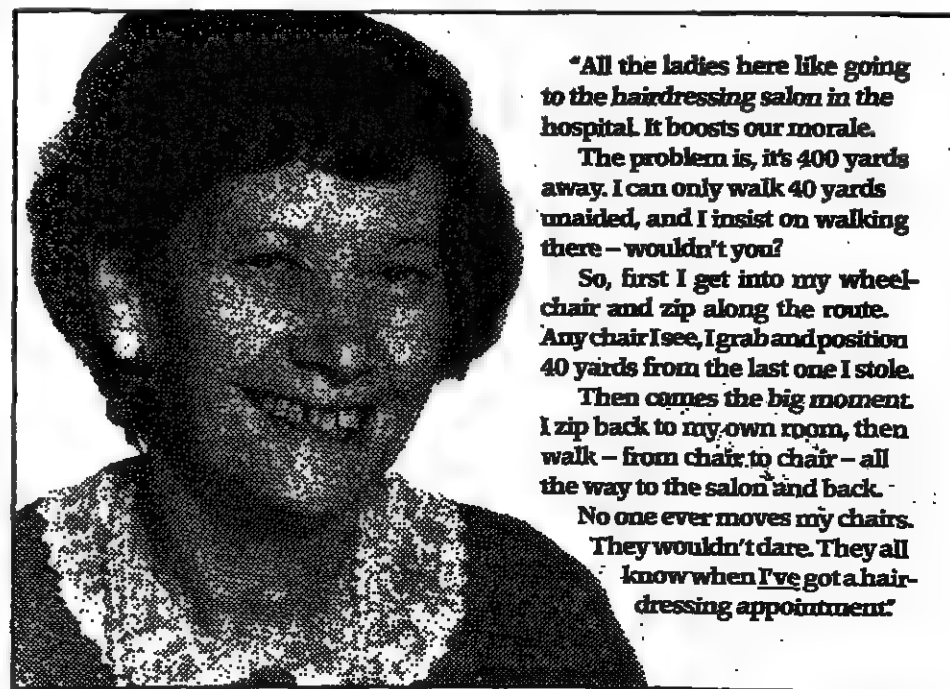
Variation has never been Hooker's strongest point, and in this 80-minute performance every song was played in the key of E, and was either a classic-style slow blues or an up-tempo boogie. Nevertheless, he took some intriguingly imaginative liberties with the structures of the songs, rarely confining a sequence to 12 bars and often turning the beat around mid-verse. This was facilitated by having a properly briefed and disciplined backing quintet, the Coast To Coast Blues Band.

He also scrupulously avoided the temptation to ham it up, a hazard to which senior musical citizens seem increasingly prone.

Hooker was secure enough to let the gifted guitarist, Michael Osborn, and the saxophonist, Kenny Baker, carry the bulk of the soloing weight, but nevertheless put his back into the playing and singing of the songs, with little recourse to lengthy, indulgent extemporizing.

David Sinclair

WHY MRS RODRIGUES "STEALS" CHAIRS.



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MONDAY PAGE

Marrying the company

She also works who stays at home — and so do the satellite industries which are coaxing and coaching the corporate wife into a comeback. Victoria McKee reports

It is a truth almost universally acknowledged that a single man in want of more than a middle management position must also be in possession of a wife: and when ambition and competition collide, the archetypal job-share scheme is seen as economic sense.

It is no coincidence, the British Institute of Management believes, that 81 per cent of nearly 3,000 top executives who participated in its "profile of British Industry" survey published this year were married or re-married — with only 12 per cent single and 7 per cent divorced or separated.

Officially, companies hotly deny that a man's marital status might be the most persuasive item on his CV. IBM protests that the concept of the corporate wife does not compute in its scheme of things. ICI becomes inflamed at the implication that it might be flouting the Equal Opportunities Act. The Confederation of British Industry expresses itself appalled at the very suggestion that its members may be promoted on more than personal merit. But off the record, even the stiffest spokesmen unbend enough to admit that a wholly successful corporate, political or army career usually requires a "better half". "We may not exactly interview the wife but we make sure she comes out to dinner before we finalize the offer," one revealed. "You can't get above a certain rank without a wife who passes muster," another acknowledged.

Jean Denton, who made it to the board of Austin Rover alone and is now with Burson-Marsteller, says: "Young men today are recognizing that two heads are better than one. And if you're both working, who lets the gas fitter in?"

Miranda Hoskyns, the wife of the director general of the Institute of Directors, Sir John Hoskyns, says she "deplores" the idea of the wife as accessory to a man's career and thinks working women are much more of an asset "because they have

so much more to talk about. But when John got this job it was made clear to me that it would be a good thing if I helped him".

As a freelance artist and print-maker, Lady Hoskyns has a pretty dynamic career of her own. "I may have got a lot further in my career if I hadn't taken such an interest in his," she admits, "but if I've sacrificed anything, I've done so entirely voluntarily."

Sharon Bamford, the 29-year-old wife of a 37-year-old oil company executive, gave up a career in marketing when she married. "I suppose I am a corporate wife," she says. "I enjoy it. When you marry someone in the oil industry it must be with that attitude. I'm happy to do hosting and weekend entertaining — I suppose we have business guests staying with us nearly every other weekend."

The mother of two young children, Bamford now runs a Montessori nursery school from a barn on her Scottish coastal farm, and speaks several languages fluently. "We hosted a dinner for a group of Indonesians that Tony was trying to woo and it was undoubtedly good for business that I could converse with them in Indonesian," she recalls.

Bamford thinks the fact that she had a flourishing career before she married has added to her enjoyment of her new "job".

Not all corporate wives are as happy, says Julia Eccles of Harrods' Executive Service. "Corporate wives require more confidence than an average housewife," she believes, and many of the women who come to her for advice on their wardrobe feel "intimidated" by their role. "They don't know what to wear for occasions like Ascot and Henley and Wimbledon." (A suit for Ascot, a floaty dress for Henley and a casual white skirt and cotton sweater for Wimbledon: "Nobody dresses for Wimbledon any more.")



Sharon Bamford: "I am a corporate wife and I enjoy it. I'm happy to do weekend entertaining"

Mary Spillane, of Colour Me Beautiful image consultants, also numbers corporate wives among her most devoted disciples and plays the role herself, on occasion, for her merchant banker husband. "I use my married name and talk about children and gardening and never mention what I do because it makes people nervous." Younger women come to her of their own accord, apparently, but older wives, she says, are often pushed into it by their husbands.

Susie Faux, who runs the Wardrobe fashion consultancy, is aware of the hostility among women who come to her at their husband's instigation. "There can be a lot of resentment when they're catapulted into the social limelight because their husband has suddenly reached the level he may have neglected them to attain. One couldn't lose weight, although she knew her husband loathed her size. Another burst into tears and said: 'My husband sent me — I didn't want to come!'"

Wendy Walden, who runs an Executive Wives programme, calls herself "a headhunter in reverse". A

PR consultant who primarily works on raising the profile of executives. Helping their wives, she discovered, could be a profitable sideline at £185 for three two-hour sessions if the wives pay, but £450 if the company settles the bill.

She says that the women who come to her range in age from 24 to 60. "Recently I had great success with a 31-year-old stockbroker's wife who was totally left behind by her husband's whirlwind rise but is now a marvellous hostess. You'd never guess until you see her light a cigarette at the end and say 'Thank God that's over', that she hates it."

"What I didn't expect in this day and age was that there were so many young girls prepared to give up promising careers for their husbands," Walden, married to a dentist — for whose advancement she hasn't had to do much more, she agrees, than smile sweetly and show a presentable set of teeth — advises her wives to keep a diary with details of their husband's business associates such as family birthdays, holidays and hobbies, and to scan

the newspapers for suitable topics of conversation.

She will research their husband's companies for them and help them understand the construction or engineering business so that they can converse intelligently about it, but she draws the line at recommending elocution lessons.

Nevertheless, Philippa Davies, a voice therapist working in London, says she gets many anxious wives coming to her to coach them out of an unwanted regional accent or down an octave. "So many say their husband doesn't like the sound of their voice at dinner parties," Davies says. "Some have been press-ganged into coming, and to be honest I don't encourage them."

Ashley Crystal, an American married to a British barrister, runs "Today's Woman" seminars on "personal presentation" for £75 a day.

Top corporate wives make up a substantial part of her business, but she does not like to use the term "self-improvement". "I call it 'Be good to yourself,'" Crystal says, "because if you are, you'll have more to give to your husband and children."

Make mine a perfect one

Well, of course, Dr Ian Jessiman is quite right. He is the GP from Bromley, Kent, who addressed the British Medical Association's annual representative meeting in Norwich last week and warned of the dangers of creating "designer children".

Apparently, the boundaries of genetic engineering are shifting so rapidly that soon it might be perfectly possible to turn up at the gynaecologist's consulting room demanding a darling little baby with blue eyes and blonde ringlets instead of the bald, squawking number that nature intended you to have.

Dr Jessiman considers this to be a sorry state of affairs and all right-thinking people would agree. And yet, and yet... is there a child in the world who, at some stage, hasn't been convinced that when he was a baby he was taken away from his rightful parents by the gypsies and landed up with this couple whom he is expected to call "Mummy" and "Daddy", but can't be any kin of his since they cruelly stop him from watching *The A Team* and scrutinize the back of his neck for ingrained grime?

And is there a parent in the world who hasn't, for a moment or two at least, wondered whether there wasn't some dreadful mix-up in the maternity ward? How else explain why their son, brought up in a household where the sound of the Amadeus Quartet waits serenely around the drawing room, spends days at a time in his pigsty of a bedroom listening to the Pet Shop Boys?

A bit of designer genetics could improve the situation. A little dabbling about with cells could ensure that your children were undeniably stamped in your own best image. You would be able to pass on your thick eyelashes, talent to amuse and interesting interpretation of the work of Kingsley Amis, while eliminating forever your knock knees, state of ignorance about contemporary drama and craving for Crunchie bars.

And while one is tampering,

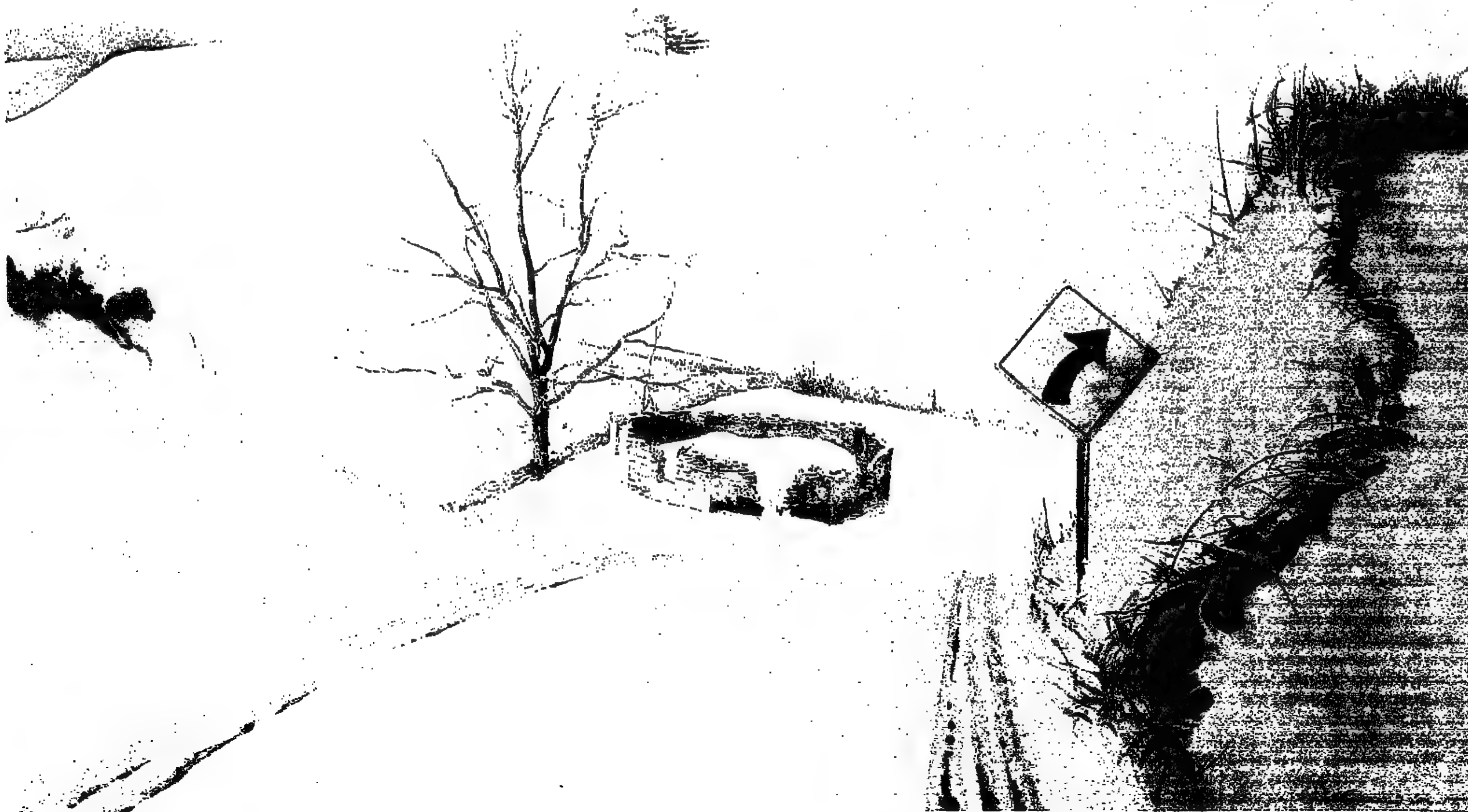


one could be improving the universal design of babies, as well as coping with bespoke orders. I see no reason why one should not implant a cell which ensures that babies arrive fully house-trained. Getting a baby out of nappies is a full-time and none-too-pleasant job. The last time I tried it the result was total victory for the baby who, having screamed her head off at the sight of a potty-chair, finally took to sitting fully dressed in the hole wearing the potty on her head.

In spite of their less civilized habits, on the whole I prefer babies to adults. Babies do not get over-excited about Wimbledon, do not give dinner parties, do not give their opinion of late Picasso. Babies go to bed early, will listen to all your favourite fairy stories and do not mind eating puréed chicken and mashed potato four meals in a row.

Also, babies grow into gloriously unpredictable children. Nothing is more satisfying than to watch striving, competitive parents ensure that their little ones go to the right school, the right dancing class and the right birthday parties, only to see them develop phoney Cockney accents and insist that all they want to do is drift their life away on a Welsh hill farm growing organic rhubarb. Similarly, as I have often observed, the children of lazy drifters become round-the-clock commodity dealers, so it all works out even.

The benefits of genetic engineering would undoubtedly be greater if they were applied to adults. Man (and woman) kind would be much improved if it could be programmed to say, "I think it's time we went home" rather than "Let's all go on to Annabel's", and to behave with decorum at the Harrods sale.



There'll be snow in Cambridge this summer

"Ring Road" by Andrew Wyeth is one of the paintings in "An American Vision: Three Generations of Wyeth Art" at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, between 12th July and 29th August 1988.

Each generation of this renowned family of American artists has achieved broad recognition.

©1988 Andrew Wyeth ©1988 AT&T

This collection of the work of N.C. Wyeth, his son Andrew and grandson James has been touring the world for the last two years. It gives an extraordinary view of an enduring tradition of American life that spans a century of change.

The sponsor, AT&T, has been part of Amer-

ican life during that century — as a leader in communications technology and a sponsor of the arts.

AT&T is therefore particularly pleased to present this exhibition, organised by the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.



TIMES DIARY CLEMENT FREUD

The man was bemoaning his rotten war: "I started off in Africa, then got sent to India, fought my way through Burma, ended up in Malaya and blow me down if they didn't make me go to Korea!" Professor Higgins would have recognized the accent without hesitation: Bristol — the Gloucestershire side as opposed to the Somerset end. At first you think they are putting it on in the hope of getting a Tourist Board award, but they are not. They all talk like that.

I went to open the 11th World Wine Fair, drove from the Mansion House in Clifton to the new Watershed Conference Centre in the Lord Mayor's coach, drawn by two Dutch draft horses that were still celebrating Holland's European Cup victory. People in the streets waved. I waved back, feeling foolish: the Lord Mayor waved back brilliantly, like a man accustomed to it, turning the palm of his hand through 180 degrees in the direction of the wave.

Then the speech: My Lord Mayor (though he is not mine), ladies and gentlemen... right down to "pleasant duty to declare the World Wine Fair open." Unlike village fairs where you are not allowed to buy gingerbread from the cake-stall until the formalities are concluded, the punters took my speech in mid-glass.

Odd, asking me to open a consumer wine fair, me with my long professional association with the booze trade. When I ran a nightclub in the 1950s I believed that as the taste of wine was subjective, no one would have the courage to make a really sustained complaint. As a consequence when any customer looked askance after an initial taste of the wine that he had ordered, I would instantly remove it mumbled apologies, telling the customer that I greatly admired his perspicacity and asking if I might be allowed to replace the bottle with something more to his liking. I then served him the bottle the last person had complained about. Perhaps I got out of the trade at the right time.

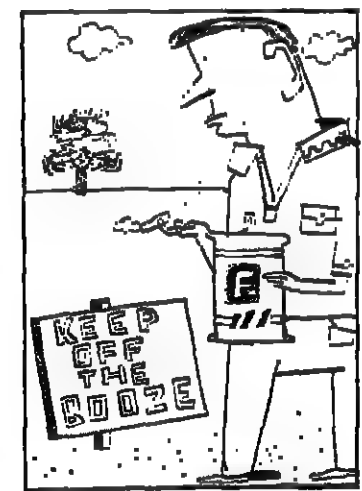
On Friday I had gone to the ticket window at Paddington station and asked for a first-class return to Bristol: the clerk said that would be £55, saw my wrinkles and said "oops £35". When I gave him my credit card he told me to go to the far windows where they accept plastic: he did not.

At the far ticket counter the agreeable clerk tried out a few combinations on his computer and said "A White Slaver will cost you £25". I thought "White Slaver" was a bit off, even for someone going to Bristol, but you have to balance propriety with economy and £25 for that return journey is a snip.

I signed my counterfoil, got my ticket (found it was a White Slaver) and on the train met four people I knew, all of whom by virtue of youth, age, foresight or artifice had paid different prices for their tickets, the most enterprising having got his through Keith Prowse as a conference delegate. "They never ask what conference?" He was in fact going to the theatre.

In the United States they carry discounts to a fine art some airlines give 25 per cent off for youth fares, 10 per cent to elegants regardless of the authenticity of their ministry; 20 per cent to the handicapped, 33 per cent to groups of 10 or more travelling together, 10 per cent for flights taking off after 11pm, and a whole lot more. A clutch of teenage one-legged vicars could fly the night skies of America for roughly the price of their in-flight meals, and probably ruin the airline in the process.

BARRY FANTONI



The hotel where I stayed was once a bastion of Berni Inns, like Topsy, it grew, encompassing many neighbouring houses and the receptionist said that it was unlikely I would find Room 338 without assistance. Led by a junior manager we set out on our journey. It involved a short ride in a lift, many corridors, three staircases (two up and one down) and there it was right next to No 234.

In the sitting room, up a few stairs from the bedroom, was a heavy folder containing house rules — breakfast 7.30-9.30; price of washing an underpant 80p, stuff like that. The final page was headed General Information and if I had been given a week to guess the content of the opening sentence, even the thrust of it, I would have failed: "Ideally situated in Clifton the hotel is set amidst tranquil gardens and offers a superb setting for your very Special Wedding Day". The radio did not work and no one answered the phone, so they may even be right.

On Saturday I had lunch at the Thornbury Castle Hotel near Bristol which Kenneth Bell made famous and beautiful and recently sold to someone else. It is still beautiful and you approach the castle along a brilliantly maintained drive, past its own vineyard planted with Muller Thurgau grapes: we ordered a bottle to drink before our meal and found it rather disappointing — perhaps it doesn't travel. During luncheon I sat in a corner of the dining room and a Manuel lookalike waiter served us. At one point he climbed into the fireplace behind me and tried to squeeze himself behind the back of my chair and the wall. I asked him what on earth he was doing. He said his instructions were always to serve people's drink from the right and he was trying to get there. Had a 1984 Pinot d'Alsace from the sub-£12 wine list and decided that Mr Hugel is the best shipper of Alsatian wines.

The future autonomy of Hong Kong is seriously threatened under the draft Basic Law proposed by China. The lifestyles and freedoms of the existing capitalist system, which are supposed to be guaranteed for 50 years after the 1997 handover, could be swept away.

After studying the small print, members of Hong Kong's Law Society have concluded that there is a yawning gap between the intentions of the original Joint Declaration signed by China and Britain — especially with regard to the much vaunted autonomy and independence of the courts — and the latest Chinese proposals. It is to express and explain these fears that our delegation of lawyers is arriving this week to lobby MPs before Friday's Commons debate on Hong Kong's draft constitution.

The rule of law is at the heart of a democratic system, helping to guarantee the accountability of those elected to power. We have found five articles in the draft Basic Law that undermine the Joint Declaration's guarantee that the existing legal and judicial systems will continue after 1997.

Article 17 stipulates that laws enacted by the National People's Congress of China which give expression to "national unity" and "territorial integrity" shall be applied by the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on

the directive of the State Council. If it fails to comply, the Council may apply the laws over its head.

The Joint Declaration makes no mention of laws giving expression to "national unity" or "territorial integrity". Such terms are simply vague expressions of policy unknown to the Common Law and with no place in any statute. "Anti-bourgeois" and "anti-decadent capitalist" laws and laws covering military service might well be considered to give expression to "national unity". Laws of this nature would undermine Hong Kong's free-enterprise system and many freedoms which its people now enjoy.

Article 18 affirms that the HKSAR will be vested with independent judicial power, including final adjudication. But it goes on to say that its courts will have no jurisdiction over cases relating to the executive acts of China's Central People's Government. Thus an unlawful interference in Hong Kong's internal affairs would be outside the jurisdiction of the Hong Kong courts should it involve

Simon Ip voices Hong Kong's fears for 1997 and after

Peking changes the rules

an executive act of the CPG. Moreover, the courts would be deprived of jurisdiction to try a person who had committed a criminal act against HKSAR law if that act had been authorized by the CPG. This article undermines the rule of law that acts of the executive government are challengeable in the courts.

The powers conferred on the standing committee of the National People's Congress under Articles 16 and 172 enable it to interpret Hong Kong laws and to revoke them or declare them invalid — a most serious interference with the courts' powers of legal interpretation and an encroachment on the HKSAR's legislative power. Although the laws previously in force are to be adopted as the law of the region, these Articles provide that if the NPC standing committee considers any law in force before 1997 or any new law enacted by the future Hong Kong legislature to be in contravention of the Basic Law, it may revoke it.

Article 169 empowers the NPC standing committee to issue a binding interpretation of

any provision of the Basic Law at any time. The result is that if a court was hearing a case which touched upon the interpretation of the Basic Law, and if the NPC standing committee issued an interpretation of that provision before the court gave a ruling, the court would have to apply that interpretation.

This would be wholly contrary to the fundamental assumptions of the Common Law system and the principle that it is for the courts alone to interpret and apply the law without any interference by outside authorities.

To vest the power to interpret laws in a political and executive organ of government which is subject to the influences of political change would lead to uncertainty in the law and the administration of justice, thus seriously threatening confidence in the integrity of the territory's legal system.

It is not only legal matters that give cause for concern. The Joint Declaration stipulates that the HKSAR legislature shall be "constituted by election". There is much debate on what this will mean in practice, ranging from

adult universal suffrage to election by functional constituencies, to election by a grand electoral college, or a combination of them all.

Various options, all involving an element of direct election, have been proposed in the draft Basic Law for consultation. However, the formation of the first or "provisional" government in 1997 is the subject of a special procedure. In essence, it is proposed that the NPC will establish a preparatory committee with all its members and the chairman appointed by the NPC standing committee. The preparatory committee in turn will appoint an election committee which will recommend to the government in Peking the candidate for chief executive. The election committee itself will then elect the first legislator.

The proposal does not allow for any participation by the people of Hong Kong and in effect gives control over the selection of the first chief executive and legislature to the Chinese government. The "election" would in reality be a

disguised appointment system. Our concerns are exacerbated by the provisions (Articles 45 and 67) allowing for the methods of selecting the chief executive and forming the legislature to be "modified in the light of the actual situation in Hong Kong". These provisions could be used by the first chief executive and the legislature to suppress the development of representative government in any form.

Central to these issues is the question whether the arrangements set out in the Joint Declaration are to be protected by efficient legal and constitutional guarantees, finally justifiable in Hong Kong, or whether they are to depend merely on statements of policy contained in the Joint Declaration. To us, the answer must be the former.

For the "one country, two systems" concept to work, and for Hong Kong's socio-economic systems and life style to be preserved for 50 years after 1997, it is essential that these guarantees are enshrined in the Basic Law, which the draft document in our view has failed to do.

We earnestly hope that the next draft will fulfil the letter and spirit of the Joint Declaration in these vital areas and that the Government and Parliament of Great Britain will use such means as are within their powers to achieve that end.

The author is President of the Law Society of Hong Kong.

Bernard Levin

Guardians of official trivia

On the Government's proposals for reforming the secrets legislation I shall deliver myself of a detailed opinion in due course. For the moment, I shall confine myself to a quiet chuckle at the cry of terror emitted by Mr Tebbit when he realized that the new law might deny ministers the right to be judge in their own cause since what is suggested is that the jury, not the politicians, will decide whether matter ministerially labelled as secret within the terms of the Act is correctly so designated.

I have no doubt that the Home Office has already set up at least three committees charged with finding a way round this item in the legislation or a method of contravening it without being detected, but all sensible men have long known that even eternal vigilance is not enough when dealing with that sump unless it is accompanied by a sufficiency of Jeyes Fluid.

Today, however, I want to explore a more tangential aspect of secrecy, less relevant to the details of legislation than to the very idea of secrets and their protection. I have just read a wonderfully rich and hilarious book called *The Secret Lives of Trebitsch Lincoln* (Yale U.P.) by Professor Bernard Wasserstein of Brandeis University.

Lincoln (he was born Trebitsch, and it is not entirely clear why he adopted the presidential moniker) was an international confidence-trickster, a lurid fantasist, a double, treble and quadruple agent, *splendide mendax* from childhood to deathbed, mad as any number of March Hares, wanted by the police and secret services of a dozen countries, and adept at strewing innumerable aliases behind him as he went on his way through life's bran-chase, one step ahead of the law.

There is only one comparison possible, and Professor Wasserstein pays proper tribute to the book in which the comparison leaps from the page — and Deane's delightful account of the life of Sir Edmund Backhouse, *Hermit of Peking*.

I revelled in every page of the professor's work, thankful for the scholarship and the entertainment alike. It was while I was browsing through his 17 pages of sources — an indication of the prodigious amount of research — that I was struck by an extraordinary contrast between the attitudes to secrecy displayed respectively by Britain and the United States, or perhaps it would be more exact to say Britain and the rest of the world. Professor Wasserstein is a courteous and scrupulous scholar and he does not labour that contrast. But then, he doesn't need to; just listen to this:

"The MIS file on Trebitsch Lincoln, reportedly very bulky, is, like all MIS material, permanently closed. Naval intelligence records at the Public Record Office... do not include the texts of intercepted German cables concerning him... The voluminous Home Office records concerning Trebitsch Lincoln are lodged at the Public Record Office in a category closed to public inspection... The most exotic, and in many ways revealing documents concerning Trebitsch... are the files of the Special Branch... of the Shanghai Municipal Police, the British-controlled security agency active until 1941... These records were transferred by the Nationalist Chinese Government to the CIA in 1949, just before the communist capture of Shanghai... they were held by the CIA until their recent transfer to the National Archives. They are of unique interest to modern historians, constituting as they do the only more-or-less complete block of records of a British security organisation ever to become available to the public. (It has been officially announced in Britain that security and intelligence-related records are never released to the PRO)."

The contrast can bring tears to your eyes. The Americans provided Professor Wasserstein with mountains of documents, no less (by which I mean no more) secret than the British ones: the Germans, the Austrians, the Canadians, the Hun-



garians, the Czechs — all coughed up the treasures of their archives to the professor since all of them knew, as well as the British authorities know, that Trebitsch died in 1943, in China, and had had no meaningful international dealings for a good many years before that.

Now, in any case, could anything he did even in his double-crossing heyday (the First World War) have any relevance to any secret matter today. Yet the British files that would have enabled this most engaging and assiduous academic to make his splendid book even more complete were shut in his face.

If I ask why, there is complete and no possible answer that would satisfy the demands of human reason. For at least three quarters of a century, educated and

intelligent men charged with guarding Britain's secrets have known that if every line of the holdings of British security agencies concerning Trebitsch's activities (a vast proportion of which, incidentally, existed only in his own overheated mind) were to be published in English, Russian, Chinese, Tibetan, Romanian and any other language you care to mention, and in editions of millions of copies and specially large type, no harm of any kind, however remote or trivial, could possibly, even in the wildest theoretical sense, be done to Britain's interests.

And yet the Stonebottoms of MIS and Naval Intelligence and the Home Office, approached by a reputable scholar on a reputable mission, fold their arms and roll their eyes eloquently heavenwards, and say no, and no, and no, and no. And no. If, then, reason cannot explain

the mania for wholly unnecessary secrecy in Britain, we must turn to unreason.

There are, of course, those involved in the secrecy trade whose unreason has gone far beyond the normal limits; if there is truth in as much as three per cent of the matter contained in the modern flood of books about the intelligence service it is clear that a good many of our guardians are literally psychotic. But it is the behaviour of the sane ones that interests me more.

It must go something like this. If a man is put in charge of the file which records how many rolls of lavatory paper are used month by month in the Foreign Office, he must persuade himself that such information, in the wrong hands, would bring about the ruin of Britain; in no other way can he maintain his pride in being entrusted with it.

That doesn't matter; the trou-

ble starts when the people in real intelligence, dealing with matters which might (though usually don't) truly affect Britain's security, adopt the same attitude of vanity laced with paranoia — as it is inevitable that they will. (Surely somebody other than me must have noticed that the very title of Peter Wright's book is a lie; he never caught a single spy throughout his career).

And the worst is that, since both categories of secrets-keepers know things that the rest of us do not, they persuade themselves that they are superior to those outside their absurd pentacle, and must continue to exclude harmless seekers after harmless information because they are unfit to have it.

I am certain that the officials who refused Professor Wasserstein's requests were genuinely afraid that if they acceded to them the lid of Pandora's box would never again be shut. They have to believe that, because the alternative is to recognize that they are doing a meaningless job, that they contribute nothing whatever to national security or anything else, and that they could all be sacked at once, and their precious documents thrown out of the windows on to the pavements of Whitehall, without anything at all, good or bad, happening.

The United States has more secrets than Britain, and more important ones. Yet her Freedom of Information Act throws open to inspection every file other than genuinely secret ones. The result is that in these matters Americans are better informed, more mature and socially healthier; altogether more democratic.

In Britain, it is not a question of who will guard the guardians; it is a question of who will teach the guardians democracy. Professor Wasserstein couldn't, Mr Richard Shepherd, MP, was not allowed to; Mr Tebbit denounces the very thought; and the man who counts the bars of soap in the washrooms of the department, the Environment continues to believe that the fate of the earth is in his hands.

Commentary • HUGH MONTEFIORE

Crusade for survival

Environmental change is seldom popular. People dislike most of the changes they actually see, such as the substitution of man-made ugliness for the beauty of nature or the contrived elegance of the past. We are affronted by urban degradation or hideous modern architecture. We are revolted by lovely countryside ruined by new housing or the intrusion of a motorway. We are aghast to read that a provisional agreement has been made to import into Merseyside, of all places, 7.5 million tonnes of domestic waste from the US.

Development there has to be. Better law is needed to combine change with minimum impairment of life's amenities. Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, exhorts us not to cry Nimby ("Not in my backyard") over development, though his call would sound more authentic had he not defended his own backyards in London and Cirencester.

More serious than threats to the quality of life are threats to health and to life itself. Here there is real but limited progress. The CBI has urged its members to be environmentally minded on the grounds that it is good for business, which is an interesting comment on the public's growing environmental awareness. The campaign for lead-free petrol shows good results and the EEC is making us spend £500 million to help clear up sulphur and nitrogen oxide emissions from power stations — and not before time with our confiers

and beech trees now the worst in Europe. We have also agreed to reduce pollution from the exhausts of all new cars. But action is still needed over nirate levels in our water.

Nuclear energy is often regarded as a good substitute for fossil fuels, whose "greenhouse effect" is causing increasing concern. In fact nuclear dangers are real: for example contamination of the topsoil around Chernobyl and the unexplained increase of leukaemia among young people near Dounreay and Sellafield. It is conveniently forgotten that, 18 years ago, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution recommended that "there should be no commitment to a large programme of nuclear fission power until it has been demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that a method exists to ensure the safe containment of long-lived and radioactive waste for the indefinite future." It does not yet exist. So safety can be achieved only by reduction of energy demand.

Various non-renewable resources are under threat. Here in Britain we maltreat our precious soil, paying farmers to "leave it aside" land which is redundant because of surplus production achieved by the questionable use of ever-larger quantities of artificial fertilizers and pesticides. Worldwide, deserts grow larger, and parts of the sea remain barren. The price of non-renewable fossil fuels actually gets cheaper, encouraging their use. The Third World's firewood

crisis grows ever more acute. The clearing of tropical rain forests causes floods, soil erosion and world climatic changes. Consumers and producers are at last getting together, in the nick of time, to plan sustained forest management.

The worst threat of all to life lies in global ecological change. The danger comes in several ways, including disruption in recycling the trace elements necessary to life. The immediate danger stems from the warming of the planet. Chlorofluorocarbons which cause the ozone gaps over the poles are usually associated with skin cancers from increased ultra-violet rays: in fact these are likely to be an equal threat to the climate.

Even with the recent Montreal agreement to curb emissions, active chlorine in the stratosphere will treble by the year 2050. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will double by the end of the next century, to say nothing of methane and nitrogen oxide.

Heat tends to be trapped in the lower atmosphere by these gases. The situation is exacerbated by the Third World's rising population and the West's craving for ever-increasing consumption.

Ecosystems are elastic, and so we grow complacent: but when the classic snaps, change comes comparatively suddenly. Some think that global heating has already begun.

If Dr Jim Lovelock's thesis about "Gaia" is correct (and no one has been able to disprove it),

JULY 11 ON THIS DAY 1830



The fifth and final volume of *The Diary of a Country Parson* was as warmly received as were its predecessors. The diarist, the Rev James Woodforde, held the living of Weston Longville, Norfolk, from the 1770s until his death in 1803; he ate well, recorded most of what appeared on his table, and year by year he shared his Christmas dinner with the poor old men of the parish; those who could not come had a meal sent to them accompanied by a coin.

THE WOODFORDE DIARY

(by George Saintsbury)

It does not take very long to discover things to account for the curious wizardry which this, in a way, commonplace country parson has exercised on the most different readers. It is not fully manifest till he gets into the place which was evidently predestined for him, the country living of Weston Longville, nine miles from Norwich, though he only spent not quite half of his life there.

There is the curious formula of entry at the beginning of each day, recording how every inmate "breakfasted, dined, supped and slept"; and it is one of the very few interruptions of not exactly quiet — for the people are always running about — but placid existence.

Our Reverend is very lucky in "my Squire" as he calls him, Mr Custance, who certainly appears to have been as unlike his class fellow and near contemporary

Western as possible. His wife, too, besides taking a great fancy to Nancy (Woodforde's niece), has a habit of producing infants annually, or thereabouts, and on each occasion "my Squire" sends for his parson to baptise the child privately, and afterwards slides into his hand pieces of paper containing not dirty notes, but beautiful golden guineas, sometimes four, but generally five. In fact, the substances seem to have been ideal representatives of their kind — not in the least patronising, but perfectly familiar and as ready to drop in and partake of things as to entertain, lend carriages, etc.

There are also plenty of other clerical families about with whom, allowing for natural and only occasional tiffs, one associates; and there is always Norwich, with sometimes Yarmouth, to resort to. Norwich, it must be remembered, was still one of the chief provincial capitals of England.

Parson Woodforde and Nancy are both not infrequently "indifferent," which means indispersed, and the amount of rhabarbar consumed at Weston in a year must be considerable: in the later times, when the parson is in the usual grey, so that he has to give up, not indeed living, but duty a thing which even in that lax period he had never done earlier. Best of all and pervading all is, actively as he supplies the material and passively as we read it, Parson James Woodforde himself, no Methodist, but a pious Christian who fears God and does his duty to man: perfectly willing to enjoy (and describe) the good things of his life, but as willing to communicate them to other people; if not definitely humorous, certainly amusing and never contemptible.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

EUROPEAN APPROACHES

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's weekend visit to this country could hardly have been better timed. Only three days before, the President of the EEC Commission, M. Jacques Delors, had warned Europe that it should now prepare for government. No two countries are more aware of this than West Germany and Britain. No two are more divided in their approach to it.

After a promising start, relations between Herr Kohl and Mrs Thatcher have suffered from their differing attitudes to Europe. On his first official visit to this country, the Chancellor referred in visionary terms to the prospect of European union — but soon found himself dealing with a British Government more concerned with value for money and cost-effectiveness. Even when the issue of Britain's rebate had been settled, Mrs Thatcher (in German eyes) has been more interested in her relations with the superpowers than with committing Britain to a new future in Europe.

Mrs Thatcher's continuing refusal to join the European exchange rate mechanism has been frequently cited as an example of Anglo-Saxon foot-dragging. So too is her lack of enthusiasm for a European Central Bank. But the differences have often been in style, with the Chancellor distracted from his European dream by the cautious, questioning pragmatism of Whitehall.

The Community, however, will need both vision and political instinct if it is successfully to negotiate the next ten years. By then, said M. Delors to the European Parliament last week, 80 per cent of Europe's economic legislation (and, no doubt, much else besides) would be put together in Brussels and in Strasbourg. Yet national parliaments had not woken up to the fact that political power was slipping from them. By the middle 1990s, he underlined, the Community would need a form of European government to cope with all its new responsibilities.

In effect M. Delors is quite correct. Europe has a government of sorts, as represented by the Council of Ministers, the Commission and the European Parliament — directly elected by national constituencies since 1979. But the mechanism was first created for a smaller organization and while it has grown recently, it has failed to do so at an even pace on all fronts.

Thus, while the Single European Act increased the effectiveness of the Council of Ministers by raising the number of issues which could be settled by majority voting, it failed to develop its democratic accountability to match this extra power. The Council meets in secret and is not obliged to seek anyone's consent — yet is increasingly looking after the destiny of 300 million people. At the same time, the continuing delegation of responsibilities to the Commission has led to a form of government by administrative regulation.

No coherent programme to repair this so-called "democratic deficit" has been prepared. But at least there is in some countries a growing awareness of a problem which needs solving.

The simplest way to bolster public confidence would be to make the Council sit in public. This might not in itself improve the quality of decision-making, but it would do much to remove the suspicion of national legislatures. Another would be to strengthen the European Parliament by giving it a more positive role in Community decision-making. At present the Parliament can give only its opinion on Council decisions, which the Council is by no means obliged to follow. It can delay by refusing to give an opinion at all, but has only this limited, negative control.

Another means to redress the balance would be to increase the influence of Westminster over the Council, by scrutinizing proposed legislation from its inception — perhaps through the select committee system. This would ease the concerns of British parliamentarians (and their counterparts in other national capitals) but would certainly run into opposition in Brussels.

The point which M. Delors was making with such dramatic effect was that unless national Parliaments appreciate now what is quietly happening, there will one day be an explosion of discontent. This argument is almost incontestable. To act on it will require a vision of Europe's future. But this will quickly become a mere mirage without practical step-by-step leadership on the way. The British and German Governments should learn to work closely together because Europe will need both approaches if it is to negotiate the next ten years safely.

LESSONS FROM PIPER ALPHA

While Mr Paul "Red" Adam, apparently as indestructible as he is indispensable, engages the fires still burning on the canted decks of the Piper Alpha oil rig, questions about the cause of the disaster, the reasons for its intensity and the prevention of further tragedies in the North Sea oil fields continue to mount.

Two inquiries are now proposed, a technical study under the head of the Department of Energy's safety inspectorate, and a public inquiry under a Scottish judge. It is already clear however that a good deal of attention must be given to the effects of age on the rig. It was built between 1973 and 1975 in Dumbarton and was in position and pumping oil 12 months before any fire and safety regulations specifically designed for the off-shore rigs came into force. The Piper Alpha rig was built in an age when little was known directly of the demands and rigour of operation in the North Sea, and when previous experience had been limited to the construction and operation of much smaller oil platforms for the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico. It was not long before the rig operators discovered unprecedented damage being done to the structure by the accretion of marine life.

Other accretions of a more technical kind began to take their toll too. They culminated in the "shoe-boring" in of additional gas processing plant in 1985, to accommodate new demands being made on its capacity. A measure of the extent of these accretions may be drawn from the fact that the platform was originally designed to handle 150,000 barrels of oil a day, but last year its daily average was 167,000 barrels.

The additional weight was compensated for by strengthening the legs, but Mr Jack Donaldson, a former executive of the company, who has raised a number of worrying questions about the rig's safety record, points out that even though the legs are strengthened, a major fire will make the structure un-

balanced, and the extra weight will make it additionally dangerous in such conditions.

Mr Donaldson's other principal accusation, that important safety modifications recommended following the accident in 1984 were not carried out because of a reluctance to interrupt the production flow, is denied by the company, who say that he is mistaken. This and other observations by a man who was in a position to know, such as that the water system was inadequate, mean at least that he will be a vital witness for the judicial inquiry.

The adequacy of the safety inspection system has already been challenged by the unions, and this too must form an important part of the inquiry. It is significant perhaps that the Department's safety inspectorate consists of only eight men, responsible for standards on 125 North Sea installations, and that the last inspection of Piper Alpha on June 30 took one man rather less than one day.

One obviously sensible reform seems likely to come out of the disaster. The President of Occidental Petroleum has already indicated that the company is considering taking the men off rigs when they are not actually at work. Living in a hotel above a fire bomb may be tempting providence too far.

Two aspects of the affair deserve an unstinted welcome. The first is the generosity with which the Government, the company, the European Community and other companies have responded to the Lord Provost of Aberdeen's appeal for funds for the victims. The fundraised £3 million virtually overnight, and the total is rising.

The second is the declaration by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, that in the inquiries he is launching, "We do not need to defend the status quo. We want to know whether more can be done." The victims, their families, and those who in future will risk their lives in this most dangerous of industries demand no less.

TOWARDS THE RED PLANET

The launch of the Soviet Phobos survey craft last Thursday is an event to touch the imagination of mankind. The vessel is unmanned, but marks the first stage in a process that could put men on Mars within the next twenty years, and begin in earnest the search for life there. Instruments and specialists have been provided by European countries, both East and West, and radio tracking by the United States.

All the same in the developing race between the superpowers over who will be first on the red planet, the Russians at present seem a long way ahead. Their massive *Energia* rocket is more powerful than any in the West. They also know more about the effects of prolonged stays in space on the human system, thanks to the *Mir* orbiting space station and the grit of the cosmonauts who have spent so many months cooped up in it.

The Soviet advantage is a tribute to the consistent, undramatic but determined way in which Moscow has conducted its space programme after abandoning the effort to be first on the Moon more than twenty years ago. Indeed, the story of the Soviet and American space programmes since then has in many ways been that of the tortoise and the hare. While the Americans have gone for spectacular immediate achievements — with occasional tragic results — the Russians have pressed on with the task of building up their space station and rocket technology.

This restraint is despite the fact that the exploration of space has been of unparalleled importance to the pride of the Soviet people. The Communist state no doubt finds this the national pride adequate recompense for the colossal sums it has poured into space.

None the less, in recent months voices have been raised in the Soviet Union declaring that in view of the hardships of ordinary Soviet people, the space programme is something which a comparatively poor superpower simply should not be able to afford.

Economically, the United States is of course in a much stronger position. On the other hand, the US government is faced with massive budget deficits and with a legislature that can cripple any programme of which it disapproves. Financial and political problems in both superpowers are bound to be increased by the Mars programmes — each of which will cost an estimated \$100 billion.

To abandon the Mars venture, however, would be wrong. It is true that the world is faced by many more pressing challenges than the exploration of space. But this is an issue with power to stir the imagination. The challenge of space reminds man of his identity as an explorer and seeker. It is of great importance both in stimulating specific scientific research in many fields, and in awakening the interest in science of young people.

The exploration of Mars would therefore seem the ideal subject for the first complete and large-scale collaboration between the two superpowers, which ideally would involve many other countries too — Britain included, if the Government could only shake off its unimaginative and pound-foolish attitude to this vital field.

Such a joint mission from one planet to another would be of great importance in itself, and of even greater significance as a symbol of general international confidence and co-operation. This would truly be a "giant leap for mankind".

Jobless threat to visually impaired

From the Principal of the Royal National College for the Blind
Sir, May I, as head of the specialist college of further education for the visually impaired, draw your attention to one of the unforeseen consequences of the new employment training programme which the Manpower Services Commission introduces on September 5 this year?

Over the last 10 years 100 visually-impaired piano technicians have graduated from this college, half of them mature students who lost sight in their twenties or thirties. All of them are fine craftsmen, mostly now running their own successful businesses and contributing to the national economy. Few of them had any hope of further employment at the time they lost their sight. All of them are funded by the MSC.

This now threatens to end. The new programme will pay the trainee £17.50 a week, with the possibility of another £40 in special cases, and the maximum course length is to be one year.

No piano technicians' course in the world lasts only one year; the usual period is three years. The training of craftsmen who have little or no sight demands a high staffing ratio, as you can imagine. Such additional skills as mobility and orientation, independent living skills, small-business management, keyboarding and braille must also be learnt. Our annual fee is of necessity more than twice the proposed maximum employment training grant.

The financial dimension affects also mature students on our shorter courses in computer programming, in business and secretarial studies, and in remedial therapy. The employment training programme is directed particularly at the long-term unemployed. One result of it could be to increase the number of visually-impaired people in this category, a result which no minister, surely, could have intended.

Yours sincerely,
LANE MARSHALL, Principal,
Royal National College for the Blind,
College Road,
Hertford,
Herts.

Public clocks

From Sir Ian Hunter
Sir, The standard of public time-keeping in our cities is deplorable. The display of a public clock carries with it responsibility to the public, who can reasonably expect to check the accuracy of their watches against these clocks, as well as being told the right time.

I would suggest that all public clocks should be licensed by the local authority, and if inaccurate by more than a minute, their owners be ordered to put the hands to 12 o'clock.

On a recent visit to Zurich, I was struck by the accuracy of all the clocks displaying their faces to the public. Since the Swiss now match our ability to keep shop, why cannot we match their ability to keep time?
Yours faithfully,
IAN HUNTER,
31 Sinclair Road, W14,
June 23.

Sale of home

From the Chairman of the Royal Philanthropic Society
Sir, My attention has been drawn to the letter from Mr Maurice Logan-Selton (June 22), in which he criticises the Government's failure to save the Royal Philanthropic Community Home from closure.

He also alleged that the owners of the site sold it for property development. This is not the case: the owners — the Royal Philanthropic Society — sold it to the Royal National Institute for the Blind, who will continue to operate an institutional use, as required by the planning authorities.

The society had several reasons for selling the home, of which the most important was that its charitable purposes were no longer met by the provision of secure accommodation for juveniles. Earnings from the society did sell some surplus property to a developer to build a retirement village.

The money released from the sale can now be used to further the society's objectives. Already four projects are operating, three concerned with young people leaving care, and one for the support of young people on remand. These are innovative projects in the society's best tradition.
Yours faithfully,
ALAN FOGG, Chairman,
The Royal Philanthropic Society,
3 Eastfield Road,
Redhill, Surrey,
July 5.

VAT on book imports

From Mr Carl Edgar Law
Sir, Discussion of the perennial prospect of value-added tax being imposed on books and periodicals has focused on the effect of such a move on retail prices, while ignoring the important issue of importation by private individuals.

The normal process, when a private individual imports taxable goods, is that the package is intercepted at Customs and an opening fee of £2.50 is levied by the Post Office before any due tax is applied.

This means that an individual importing a £10 book would be charged £2.50 plus £1.50 in tax — a

Better conditions for prisoners

From the Chairman of the Howard League

Sir, The desperate situation at Risley Remand Centre has been thoroughly documented by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (report, July 1). Judge Tunin describes two of the centre's wings, housing adult men:

Both these wings were filthy. Cells were small and dimly lit. Corridors were narrow. The low ceilings throughout the wings added to the oppressive atmosphere... the almost total absence of any kind of activity for inmates and the squalor in which men lived for over 20 hours a day all contributed to a profoundly depressing atmosphere.

Risley was opened only 23 years ago as part of a building programme that heralded modern prisons for a modern task. The Home Secretary has announced that £52.5 million is to be spent on refurbishing, rebuilding and enlarging its capacity by about 75 per cent. This work is expected to be completed in 1995, but for the new centre to be less "grimy" in reputation will depend less on capital expenditure than on a reduction of penal policy and practice.

The presumption of bail, which Judge Tunin endorses in his report, lies at the heart of any solution of the squalid and dangerously overcrowded conditions experienced by persons remanded in custody. Unless this presumption is tirelessly insisted upon by Home Office ministers and practitioners alike, Britain's penal crisis at the close of the century will be even more desperate.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW RUTHERFORD,
Chairman,
The Howard League for Penal Reform,
322 Kennington Park Road, SE11,
July 4.

From Mr Sean D. McNally
Sir, I am surprised at the interest so suddenly being expressed in the penal establishment at Risley and not in the general condition of our custodial castles and penal servitude as a rehabilitative process in concept and practice.

Having recently served a 28-day sentence (remitted to 14 days) in the segregation unit at Lewes Prison, I, too, was subjected to the same demoralising and dehumanising aspects of "slopping out", insect-infested cells grubby with age and lack of care, one shower and change of clothing per week and being locked in my two-man cell (12ft 6in x 6ft 6in) for 23 hours per day (22 hours on Saturdays and Sundays).

Television was a treat granted for one hour on Saturday and Sunday instead of the exercise period. That which is called "education" was one hour of reading and writing and one hour of sewing per week.

This is not peculiar to Lewes and is better, I understand, than

Marine innovation

From Mr P. F. R. Corson
Sir, Government policy on the proposed dismantling of our ship-building industry appears to be ambivalent (report, June 15; leading article, June 16). In a related area, Government is actively hindering progress.

Some years ago I began the development of an idea to marry the fuel efficiency of hovercraft to the simplicity and lower building costs of conventional boats and ships. Eventually I was able to demonstrate a 35ft-long prototype of an "airmaran" on the Thames. The craft is basically a boat with air in a tunnel hull. The conventional marine aspects of the design make it stronger and more stable than a hovercraft.

It was to have formed the basis of the Thames river service now running.

However, because it was based on the air cushion principle, the

Cathedral glass

From Dr Peter Woodward
Sir, It is profoundly to be wished that the restoration of the spell-binding cathedral at Ely might involve not only the removal of the 19th-century greenish glass from the Lady Chapel but also the 19th-century painted glass from the octagon. Thereby the contrast between the narrow dimness of the early 12th-century nave and the thrilling expanse of the 14th-century octagon would be even more stunning in its effect.

And, while this excellent work is in progress, what about restoring the external form of the lead-covered timber part of the octagon to the form known to exist before Gilbert Scott interfered with it?

This magnificent building has nothing to lose, indeed much to gain, from well-informed 20th-century restoration.
Yours faithfully,
PETER WOODWARD,
Prestons, Chewton Mendip,
Nr Bath, Somerset.

total of £4 or 40 per cent of the purchase price. In addition, books which formerly travelled directly through the post would face interception delays.

Meanwhile, what would be the case with periodical subscriptions? Would each issue be treated as an individual shipment for tax purposes and what value would be assessed? Subscriptions to US publications, for example, often represent a significant discount off the cover price in contrast to the British practice of simply prorating and then adding postage.

American technical and professional books already sell in this country at prices considerably higher than in the US. The

several other institutions and better than the facilities offered in other wings within Lewes. When these conditions are so common, why should Risley be held up as appalling?

My time spent "inside" was a waste of two weeks, which could have been more usefully spent job-hunting. It provided no aspects of rehabilitation but lost me several psychologists' appointments. It was a very expensive burden on the taxpayer, of whom I was then one.

It is not just Risley which needs investigation but the whole question of custody as a punishment which allows society to brush the offender under a very expensive carpet and which, in my view, shows no relative good, rehabilitative or material, in proportion to the vast sums of money spent. Respectfully yours,
SEAN D. MCNALLY,
16 Queensway,
Hersham,
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey,
July 4.

From Mr A. Heaton-Armstrong
Sir, The Government's positive response to the Chief Inspector of Prisons' courageous report on conditions at Risley is most welcome and, hopefully, a reliable indicator of the urgently needed action which it will take to remedy the situation.

Symptomatic of the suicide problem at Risley is the fact that for many years senior officials there have persistently failed to allow prisoners access to prison visitors in spite of repeated approaches by the National Association of Prison Visitors. This failure has recently been rendered more reprehensible since the publication two years ago of a Home Office report of an internal working party on the prevention of suicides amongst prisoners. This recommended that prison staff should consider allocating a prison visitor to inmates with suicidal tendencies as a preventive measure.

Staff attitudes to prison visitors at Risley are not invariably shared by those at other remand establishments — Brixton is a notable exception — but, tragically, Risley does not stand alone.

Successful home secretaries have stressed the value which the prison service attaches to the work of prison visitors. Perhaps the time is now ripe for authoritative steps to be taken to ensure that all prisoners, particularly the lonely and isolated, are given real opportunities to receive visits from prison visitors.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY HEATON-ARMSTRONG
(previously Chairman, National Association of Prison Visitors),
3 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4,
July 1.

Thames troubles

From Mr J. Watson Parton
Sir, Mr Langfield (June 25) laments the lack of a single police bunch of Thames Water Authority navigation inspector on his reach of the river between Romney and Boveney locks.

This is due entirely to the economic restrictions on the police and river authorities which necessitate the reduction of manpower and patrolling.

However, the Thames division of the Metropolitan Police are to introduce a "Thames watch" scheme linking up with the neighbourhood watches which assist in the maintenance of law and order in residential areas.
I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
J. WATSON PARTON
(Vice-Chairman, River Thames Society),
2 Ruskin Avenue,
Kew,
Richmond,
Surrey,
June 28.

addition of VAT would further exacerbate this problem, with Britons paying approximately twice the US price for books and periodicals which are largely used for business, science, engineering, education and other ends which most would agree are positive.

I am not clear what compensating good such a VAT policy would confer in terms of public or social policy.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
CARL LAW,
Communications Consulting Services,
24 Willowmead Square,
Marlow,
Buckinghamshire.

Turning screw on drink-driving

From Mr P. G. Wines
Sir, The combination of a high police profile at such events as Ascot, Wimbledon and Henley, and the possible future enactment of recommendation 73 of the recently published report by the Road Traffic Law Review, may lead to a reduction in the number of drunken drivers leaving these types of events.

In recommendation 73, the report has recommended outlawing those specialist insurance companies which offer policies which provide financial compensation or "chauffeur cover" to drivers following a conviction and disqualification from driving for a drink-driving offence. Quite rightly, the report states that compensation for a premeditated illegal act is contrary to public policy.

I recently attended a county cricket match. The ground was surrounded by a large car park and dominated by a huge corporate "entertainment marquee" occupied by one of the big five banks and some of their more important business clients, i.e., exactly the type of people who buy "chauffeur insurance".

Judging by the noise, and the mountainous pile of empty crates immediately outside the marquee, it was obvious that close attention had been paid to the bottom of numerous glasses rather than to the cricket itself. Just as I was leaving I saw the driver of an expensive car crash it into the rear of a parked vehicle.

When an ordinary insurer agrees to issue a policy to a driver who has sustained a conviction for a drink-driving offence, and has served his period of disqualification, the insurer usually applies a loaded premium and special terms. These invariably include a clause which states that should the driver be involved in an accident, and as a result that driver is found guilty of another drink-driving offence, then no cover will be provided for making good the damage to the driver's own car.

Not only should the Road Traffic Law Review consider outlawing "chauffeur cover" insurance but also make it compulsory for all motor insurers to include as standard the above clause on all motor insurance policies, whether or not drivers had previously been convicted of a drink-driving offence.
Yours faithfully,
P. G. WINES,
25 Saintin Lane,
Oakley, Hampshire,
July 7.

Windsor papers

From Mrs J. I. Wheeler
Sir, If Mr Michael Bloch (July 4) cannot see that the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's references to the Queen Mother as "Cookie", to the present Queen as "Shirley Temple", and to the rest of his relations as "a smug stinking lot" and "a seedy worn out bunch of old hags" are "disparaging of the Royal Family", then one feels that his judgement, and that of his mentor, Maitre Suzanne Blum, must be gravely in doubt.

I would agree emphatically with Mr Michael Thornton (June 30) that Maitre Blum and Mr Bloch have rendered the worst possible disservice to their clients by electing to publish unedifying and malicious exchanges that would far better have been left in total oblivion.

These embarrassing letters, like the previous volume, are not merely gross errors of taste but a permanent stain on the reputations of both the Duke and the Duchess of Windsor.
Yours faithfully,
J. V. WHEELER,
27 Branscombe Court,
Westmoreland Road,
Bromley, Kent,
July 4.

Gate in disrepair

From Mr George H. Vassiltchikov
Sir, For many months now, part of Alexandra Gate — the elaborate wrought-iron entrance to Kensington Gardens from the Carriage Road — has lain collapsed, the debris together with a supporting pillar lying any which way at its feet. The gate is closed, the gap being filled by a jerry-built unpainted wooden fence strung up on wires, which has itself almost collapsed.

How long will this eyesore, which lies adjacent to one of London's most visited locations — the Albert Hall — be allowed to remain unrepaired? Presumably, native Londoners are so accustomed to living in an increasingly filthy city that they do not even notice, let alone object to it. But the millions of foreigners who visit this country each year might well be tempted to judge London and its inhabitants by the same appalling standards.
Yours sincerely,
GEORGE H. VASSILTCHIKOV,
17 Charterhouse Street, EC1,
July 14.

Universal pin-up

From Mrs Anita Barry
Sir, I can assure Mrs Abbott (July 5) that nappy pins are not obsolete. How else can the flap be kept down over the stuffing in the Christmas turkey?
Yours faithfully,
ANITA BARRY,
1 Vicar's Hill,
Armagh,
July 6.

INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **BIG TIME:** Serious gruff in America Keith Reddin's angry success has its British premiere. Theatre: Prince Albert Public House, Pembroke Road W11 0JZ. 01-225 0706. Tue. 8.30pm. Fri. 8.30pm. Sat. 8.30pm. £12.50.

★ **DOWNFALL:** Close look at urban terror by Gregory Morton. Highly promising. Theatre: Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square SW1 0JZ. 01-730 2554. Tue. 8.30pm. Wed. 8.30pm. Thu. 8.30pm. Fri. 8.30pm. Sat. 8.30pm. £12.50.

★ **DRIVING MISS DAISY:** Wendy Hiller. Barry Foster and Clarke Peters in this year's Pulitzer Prize winner about the relationship between an elderly Jewess and her black chauffeur. Fragile material but fine acting. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0JZ. 01-477 2858. Tue. 8.30pm. Fri. 8.30pm. Sat. 8.30pm. £12.50.

★ **THE FIFTEEN STRINGS:** Heartwarming Catherine Cookson romance set in Victorian South Shields. Lovely stuff. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 0JZ. 01-839 4401. Tue. 8.30pm. Sat. 8.30pm. £12.50.

★ **HAPGOOD:** Puzzling Tom Stoppard play about spies, physics and misunderstandings. With Nigel Hawthorne, Roger Rees, Felicity Kendal and Ian Gien. Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych WC2 0JZ. 01-835 5404. Tue. 8.30pm. Fri. 8.30pm. Sat. 8.30pm. £12.50.

★ **LE CIRQUE IMAGINAIRE:** Return of Victoria Chabon and Jean-Baptiste Therrien in a quasi-legendary tale. Marmalade Theatre, Puddle Dock EC3 0JZ. 01-236 5581. Tue. 8.30pm. Fri. 8.30pm. Sat. 8.30pm. £12.50.

★ **LETITIA AND LUCAS:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyacke waging eccentric war against the modern world in Peter Shaffer's new comedy. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0JZ. 01-477 2858. Tue. 8.30pm. Fri. 8.30pm. Sat. 8.30pm. £12.50.

★ **ROMEO AND JULIET:** Touring. Tamba Theatre now in London for three weeks. Young Vic Theatre, 66 The Cut, SE1 0JZ. 01-236 6353. Tue. 8.30pm. Fri. 8.30pm. Sat. 8.30pm. £12.50.

★ **TOO CLEVER BY HALF:** Alex Jennings plays the honey-tongued rascal marvelling over the production of Ostrovsky's satirical comedy. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 0JZ. 01-828 7819. Tue. 8.30pm. Fri. 8.30pm. Sat. 8.30pm. £12.50.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt. Queen's Theatre, 11-13, 11-13. The Business of

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

★ **COMPROBATIO:** (c) Complimenting and obliging up to one's judges or audience, in order to gain their benevolence, from the same Latin word meaning approval.

★ **DIASIRI:** (c) Arch disparagement, as for instance by mocking and insincere praise, from the Greek *diastira* to tear in pieces, and hence to disparage. "A figure in Rhetoric, in which we elevate any person or thing by way of derision."

★ **SYSTROPHE:** (a) A collection of descriptive phrases expressing various aspects of one thing, from the Greek *syntrophos* to twist up together, or roll into a mass.

★ **NESTASIS:** (c) Casual mention of a subject, disingenuous, as though it were unimportant, or responding to a person's criticism or insult with a riposte that plays upon his or her words, from the Greek *nestasis* to remove.

Murder Mayfair Theatre (01-628 3038). ★ **Cats:** New London Theatre (01-405 0072, ex 01-404 4079). ★ **Follies:** Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5399). ★ **42nd Street Drury Lane Theatre:** 01-306 9108. ★ **Kiss Me Kate:** Savoy Theatre (01-636 8888). ★ **Les Liaisons Dangereuses:** Ambassadors Theatre (01-636 6111). ★ **Me and My Girl:** Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913). ★ **Les Miserables:** Palace Theatre (01-434 0808). ★ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's Theatre (01-636 1423). ★ **Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's Theatre (01-453 2244). ★ **Run For Your Wife:** Criterion Theatre (01-630 3216). ★ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (01-628 8555).

OUT OF TOWN
★ **GUILDFORD:** ★ **The Admirable Crichton:** Rex Harrison (60 years) back on the boards playing Lord Loom with Edward Fox as unflappable butler. London-bound. Young's Annual Theatre, Millbrook, Guildford GU1 3UX (0483 60191). 7.45pm. £10-£14.

★ **SCARBOROUGH:** ★ **The Parasol New:** adaptation of *Three Years*, Chekhov's wry tale of misdirected love. Stephen Joseph Theatre-in-the-Round, (023 370541). Mon-Wed. 8pm. £4.80.

★ **STRATFORD:** ★ **The Man of Mode:** Garry Hynes, late of Gaiety's Druid Company, directs Emergence's high comedy with Simon Russell Beale as Sir Fopling Flutter. Swan Theatre, (079 255623).

FILMS
★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**

★ **MY GIRLFRIEND'S BOYFRIEND (PG):** The last in Eric Rohmer's series of Comedies and Provances - an ironic story of romance and confusion among young, talkative people, set in a Paris suburb (102 min).

★ **CHERISH (PG):** (01-351 3742). Progs 2, 10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443). Progs 2, 10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

★ **IT COULDN'T HAPPEN HERE (15):** Set at an English seaside resort, with music from the Pet Shop Boys (87 min). Cannon Picture Palace (01-723 5901). Progs 2, 10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

★ **JEAN DE FLORETTE (PG):** Absorbing, beautifully acted version of Marcel Pagnol's novel about Provencal life in the 13th century. With Jean-Pierre Aumont and Gerard Depardieu. Claude Berri directs (121 min).

★ **THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING (18):** Philip Kauman's massive and majestic adaptation of Milan Kundera's novel, a story of love and political consequences set against the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Juliette Binoche, Lena Olin (172 min).

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Whistler's view of darkest dockland

In 1859, the American painter James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) arrived in London from Paris eager to practise Baudelaire's urgings that artists should paint modern life. Having first explored the darkest reaches of dockland, Whistler etched "Rotherhithe" (a detail of which is shown above) from the balcony of the Angel Inn, downstream from where Tower Bridge was built 30 years later.

As with other prints from the Thames series, its unusual composition was inspired by photographic cropping and Japanese prints. Done in

his feathery, atmospheric style, "Rotherhithe" finds two barges puffing at churchwardens' pines while behind them the river, which at this period was little more than a cesspool, arcs north upstream towards St Paul's (the direction has been reversed in the print).

It is one of 30 Whistler prints at an exhibition in Liverpool which, besides examples from his other suites depicting Paris and Venice, includes a range of topographical and portrait etchings and drypoints at Speke Hall near Widnes. It is hard to imagine Whistler the wit,

socialite, dandy and flamboyant poseur residing willingly on Merseyside, but, always short of cash, he knew an easy touch. Speke Hall was owned by the shipping magnate Frederick Leyland, who was duff enough to advance Whistler large sums against commissions.

Few of the projects were completed, but the surviving efforts are included in Whistler Prints, which opens tomorrow at the Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool (051 207 0801). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 2-5pm, free, until October 6.

David Lee

Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 0JZ. 01-228 5191. 8pm, £2-£12.

★ **FATHERS AND SONS:** A quarter led by Stan Tracy and Johnny Dainton with Clark Tracy on drums and Alec Dankworth on bass. Ninety Six, Castle Park Centre, Cambridge (0223 32426). 8pm. £8.

★ **BUCKY & JOHN PIZZARELLI:** No puns, please. Opening night of a two-week residency from the mellow guitar duo. Pizza On The Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (01-235 5273). 9.15pm. rmg for prices.

★ **L'INCRONAZIONE DI POPPEA:** London City Opera present a fully staged new production of Monteverdi's

opera. Arlene Auger leads an exciting cast, with the Choir of London Baroque. Sinfonia conducted by Richard Hickox. Christchurch, Sparfilds, Commercial Street, London E1 (01-236 5086). 7.10pm. £20-£40.

★ **DANCE**
★ **RAYMONDA:** Act II of the full ballet in the centrepiece of a programme of mainly short display pieces by Moscow Classical Ballet, opening its second British tour. Theatre Royal, Royal Street, Glasgow (041 531 1234). 7.30-10pm. £3.50-£15.50.

★ **GISELLE:** Peter Wright's production for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet. The Big Top, Valley Road, Scarborough (0723 500712). 7.30-9.45pm.

TELEVISION TOP 10
National top 10 programmes in the week ending July 8

★ **EastEnders (Thurs/Sat) 15.55pm**
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★ **CONCERTS**
★ **HEAR HOWELL:** Christopher Stokes's organ recital is devoted to Herbert Howell's Paria, Psalm-Prelude Set 1 No. 1, and Stanford's Sonata No. 2. Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street (near Victoria Tube Station), London SW1 (01-228 5191, ex 01-228 8800). 7.30pm. £2-£8.

★ **BENEDICTUS:** See caption.

★ **WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL:** Victoria Street (near Victoria Tube Station), London SW1 (01-228 5191, ex 01-228 8800). 7.30pm. £2-£8.

★ **TRV TROMBONE:** Clarinet sonatas by Poulenc and Ireland are heard from Mark Trombons, as is Dankworth's Suite for Emma. Stephen Ellis is at the piano. St Giles's Church, London EC2 (01-236 2801). 7pm. £3.

★ **ELECTRIC ANNIVERSARY:** To mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Royal College of Music's Electronic Studio, Lawrence Casserly conducts William Walton's Violin Concerto, the Royal College of Music's Arco, the British premiere of Halffter's *Vanitas* score in *Resonancia de un Viento*, and the world premiere of Montague's *Violin Concerto*. St Giles's Church, London EC2 (01-236 2801). 7pm. £3.

★ **FRINGE MUSIC:** In a City of London Festival Fringe Concert, the Guildhall Junior Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Frederick Apperwhite in Buxton Or's *Sinfonia Ricercata*, Malcolm Arnold's *Tam O'Shanter Overture*, and Debra Hahn's *Soles in the Rain*. St Giles's Church, London EC2 (01-236 2801). 7pm. £3.

★ **WITHOUT STRINGS:** A chamber quartet named No Strings Attached offers a variety of pieces by Pearsall and Purcell, Kauris and Cooke, Steptoe and Swellengreave, Munday and Farnaby, and the world premiere of a new piece by David Lancaster.

★ **NEW BEACH:** Michael Appleman gives the British premiere of Amy Beach's *Violin Sonata* Op. 34, preceded by Beethoven's "Kreutzer" Sonata

and a Sonata Op. 19 by Debussy. Dore Hurling is the pianist. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-228 5191, ex 01-228 8800). 7.30pm. £2-£8.

★ **RAYMOND REVIEWS:** CC 734 1993 Mon-Sat 2pm shows night. 01-228 5191, ex 01-228 8800.

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GALLERIES

★ **VANESSA POOLEY:** Recent lyrical figurative sculpture, plus works on paper by Michael Collins. Vanessa Pooley Fine Art, 151 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1 0JZ. 01-242 4443. Mon-Fri 10.30am-6.30pm. Sat 10am-12.30pm. Free, until Sept 12.

★ **ALAN GRIMWOOD (1948-1986):** A retrospective of figurative, predominantly animal sculpture. Vanessa Pooley Fine Art, 151 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1 0JZ. 01-242 4443. Mon-Fri 10.30am-6.30pm. Sat 10am-12.30pm. Free, until Sept 12.

★ **THE CITY GALLERY:** 15 Cowley Road, Oxford (0865-750422). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. Free, until July 22.

★ **SECOND WAVE:** Sculpture and installations by Steve Johnson, John Flower, Nicky Smith and Andrew Roberts. Riverside Gallery, School Lane, Liverpool (051-705 5585). Tue-Sat 10.30am-5pm. Free, until Aug 15.

★ **DESMOND HARRISON:** A retrospective of paintings and drawings from the 1930s onwards. Berkeley Square Gallery, 23A Brompton, London W1 0JZ. 01-236 5581. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm. Sat 11am-5pm. Free.

★ **WALKS**
★ **POLITICAL LONDON:** Meet Westminster Tube, 11.30am, £2.

★ **HAUNTED LONDON:** Meet outside Temple tube, 7pm, £2.

★ **OTHER EVENTS**
★ **STITHANS SHOW:** One of the oldest one-day agricultural shows in the country, with show-jumping, silver band and evening concert. Stithans, near Walsfield (0224-85300). daily 10am-6pm, free, until Sept 11.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 **Cartoon AM**.
6.40 **Edgar Kennedy in Kitchen** (b/w). 6.55 **Weather**.
7.00 **Breakfast Time** with John Stapleton and Kirsty Wark. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 **News and weather**.
9.05 **But First This**. Andy Crane introduces three hours of children's entertainment beginning with **The Pink Panther Show** (r). 9.25 **The Record Breakers**. The first of 10 programmes presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker (r).
10.00 **News and weather** followed by **The Really Wild Show**. Nature series (r). 10.30 **Play School** (r). 10.55 **Five to Eleven**. A reading by Maya Jaggi.
11.00 **News and weather** followed by **SOS Coast Guard** (b/w). Episode one of a 12-part cliffhanger serial starring Ralph Byrd 11.35 **The Flintstones**.
12.00 **News and weather** followed by **The Garden Party**. The first of a new series introduced by Viv Lumsden and Eamonn Holmes from the Glasgow International Garden Festival. The guests include Vice of the 1988 World's 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerge. Weather. 1.30 **Neighbours**. Mike Teters disturbing news.
1.50 **Inside**. The wheelchair-bound detective investigates a murder case in which Ed Brown seems to be implicated (r).
2.40 **Bazaar**. Judi Spicers with money-saving ideas (r).
3.10 **The People's Court**. Judge Joseph A. Wagner rules on the case of a tenant accusing his landlord of being irrational; and a dispute over a supposedly unpaid taxi fare.
3.30 **Puddles Up**. The first heat of a white water canoeing competition (r). 3.55 **Cartoon Double**.
4.10 **Yogi's Treasure Hunt** (r). 4.30 **Roland Rat** - The Series II. The guests are Norman Collier, Alfred Marks and Prefab Sprout.
4.55 **News at Five**. Blue Peter. The World's Mark Tours. Leningrad: Yvette reports from the Soviet Spaceflight Control Centre. (Coastex) 5.35 **Neighbours** (r).
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell. Weather. 6.35 **London Plus**.
7.00 **Wogan**. Tonight's guests include Sir Geoffrey Howe.
7.35 **Adventure - Ring of Fire**. Lorne and Lawrence Blair continue their adventures in Indonesia and meet a 116-year-old "master of the cliff world" and visit the mountains of Celebes. (Coastex)
8.00 **Don't Wait Up**. Comedy series starring Tony Britton and Nigel Havers as father and son medical men. (Coastex)
8.30 **In Sickness and in Health**. A.I. in this last episode of the series, drama that he makes a triple century for England in the Lord's Test. (Coastex)
9.00 **Miss O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis and Philip Hayton. Regional news and weather. **Pressures: Who Is This Man**. A profile of the Democratic presidential challenger and an assessment of the chances he has of getting to the White House. Dukakis is also interviewed by Fred Emery.
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10.55 **The Golden Girls** Picture Show (r).
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BBC2

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8.00 **Coventry University: An Introduction to Information Technology** 12.55 **Fundamentals of Computing**.
1.30 **Hockey Cockey** (r). 1.35 **Coastex**.
2.00 **News and weather** followed by **Home on the Range** (b/w).
2.35 **The Making of Conrads** (r).
2.55 **Jack Huston Photographing Frysion** (r).
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4.00 **By Kidz**. Episode one of a six-part medical drama series (r).
4.25 **Holiday Outings**. With Gillian Reynolds on a Greyhound Bus calling at New Orleans, Southport and Graveland (r).
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BBC2

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8.00 **Coventry University: An Introduction to Information Technology** 12.55 **Fundamentals of Computing**.
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2.00 **News and weather** followed by **Home on the Range** (b/w).
2.35 **The Making of Conrads** (r).
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ITV/LONDON

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8.55 **Thames news**.
9.30 **Password**. World association game hosted by Gordon Burns. The celebrity guests are Christopher Biggins and Candy Devine. 10.00 **Santa Barbara**. 10.55 **News headlines**.
10.55 **The Time**.
11.00 **The Place**. Khalid Aziz chairs a discussion on a topical subject. 11.10 **Let's Pretend** to the tale of **Knitting Granny and Her Sheep**. 11.20 **Doctors and Patients**. How family doctors cope with complex emotional disorders (r).
12.00 **Survival: Return of the Mink**. On how a once extinct species is now flourishing. 12.30 **The Sullivan**. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s.
1.00 **News at One** 1.20 **Thames news**.
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4.45 **Dramarama: Just a Normal Girl**. A disabled girl is helped out of the shell into which she has retreated since her parents are similarly handicapped. 5.15 **Give Us a Clue**. Celebrity charades (r).
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11.00 **The Place**. Khalid Aziz chairs a discussion on a topical subject. 11.10 **Let's Pretend** to the tale of **Knitting Granny and Her Sheep**. 11.20 **Doctors and Patients**. How family doctors cope with complex emotional disorders (r).
12.00 **Survival: Return of the Mink**. On how a once extinct species is now flourishing. 12.30 **The Sullivan**. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s.
1.00 **News at One** 1.20 **Thames news**.
1.30 **Film: Michigan Melody** (1986) starring Edward Weeks. A made-for-television romantic comedy about a French woman, lost in Michigan, and a truck driver who comes to her rescue. Directed by Bernard Toublanc-Michel. 3.25 **Thames news** headlines. 3.30 **The Young Doctors**. Medical drama serial set in a large Australian city hospital.
4.00 **Tickle-on-the-Tum**. Village tales for children. 4.10 **Rob & Dub** (r). 4.20 **Young Krypton**. Tough mental and physical contests for young people.
4.45 **Dramarama: Just a Normal Girl**. A disabled girl is helped out of the shell into which she has retreated since her parents are similarly handicapped. 5.15 **Give Us a Clue**. Celebrity charades (r).
6.00 **TV-am** begins with **The Morning News** introduced by Richard Kays. 7.00 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. After Nine includes a discussion on the effects of divorce on children.
8.55 **Thames news**.
9.30 **Password**. World association game hosted by Gordon Burns. The celebrity guests are Christopher Biggins and Candy Devine. 10.00

alva

CHANGE ON WEEK	
FT 30 Share	1506.8 (+21.7)
FT-SE 100	1877.2 (+19.0)
USM (Datastream)	163.72 (+1.69)
US dollar	1.7010 (+0.0005)
W German mark	3.1188 (+0.0247)
Trade-weighted	75.2 (+0.2)

MONDAY JULY 11 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Call for a new world tin group

Only days after the High Court forced the International Tin Council to effectively close down its Piccadilly headquarters, Indonesia has proposed that a new world tin body should be set up in Jakarta.

Mr Gimanjar Kartasasmita, the Indonesian minister for mines and energy, said the proposal would be discussed in Geneva in November by the International Tin Study Group, representing 30 tin producers and consumer countries seeking to establish an organization to replace the insolvent ITC.

Initial thinking on an ITC alternative came earlier this year from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Indonesia, the world's second biggest producer of tin after Malaysia, has become an increasingly powerful voice in commodity pacts.

While effectively shut down after the High Court order, the ITC, which is backed by 23 governments, including Britain, continues to exist for legal purposes. It still faces claims from creditor banks and brokers.

NEI in joint venture with US company

Northern Engineering Industries, the Newcastle upon Tyne engineering and power plant group, is forming a joint venture with Combustion Engineering, a US company from Stamford, Connecticut.

Combustion Engineering is taking a 35 per cent stake in International Combustion, NEI's boiler business in Derby, for more than £10 million.

International Combustion, which generated turnover of £100 million last year, has been involved in the development of NEI burners for boiler installations and recently won a £180 million design contract from the Central Electricity Generating Board.

Von Cramer's computer stake 'up for sale'

The near-30 per cent stake held by Mr Guy von Cramer in Spectrum Group, the Hitchen, Herts, computer distributor, was yesterday understood to be up for sale, while Mr Cramer could be leaving the board today.

A spokesman for Cramer Holdings, Mr von Cramer's Leeds private company which holds the stake, was unable to confirm the sale, which would raise an estimated £1.7 million. Mr von Cramer was unavailable for comment.

Cramer Holdings has a stake in Ferguson Holdings, parent company of the crashed Barlow Clowes group.

Change likely in Berkeley Govett team

A management reshuffle is expected today at Berkeley Govett, the asset management group.

The appointment of Mr Kevin Pakenham, of Foreign & Colonial, the investment trust house, to head the fund management business of John Govett is imminent. At least one top-level resignation is likely to be announced.

Berkeley Govett's half-year results, out today, are expected to beat expectations.

Mr Arthur Trueger, chairman and chief executive, hopes to extend group activities geographically through a series of joint ventures.

Times, page 22

City fears of isolation in unified EEC

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The City is growing increasingly worried that Mrs Thatcher's reluctance to embrace full membership of the European Monetary System and moves towards a European central bank will leave the London financial markets out in the cold.

The committee investigating the possibilities for further EEC monetary integration holds its first meeting in Basel today and tomorrow. The full investigation will take a year, but there are worries that Britain will not co-operate with its recommendations.

Lloyds Bank, in its *International Financial Outlook*, gives a warning that by remaining on the sidelines in the process of European monetary integration, the Government runs the risk of isolating the City.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the outgoing chairman of the Stock Exchange, told a House of Commons committee last week that a European central bank and European monetary union were no longer "utopian dreams" and that the London market would lose out if Britain did not take the first step of securing full membership of the EMS.

Mr John Young, economic adviser at Lloyds, says: "The other EEC members are raising the stakes for the UK. Not only will Britain remain absent from the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS but it will be confronted with the possibility of the system developing in a way which gives much greater autonomy to central banks, individually and collectively, than is the case here."

The longer Britain stays out of the EMS, the greater the likelihood that a 'Federal Reserve' bank located in Frankfurt might ultimately become the operational centre of official foreign exchange and money market intervention in the Community, posing a further threat to the pre-eminence of London among Europe's financial centres.

The warnings come just as the process of investigating further monetary integration is starting. At the EEC summit in Hanover last month, the Community leaders set up a 16-member committee to look at monetary integration, with a year to conduct its investigations.

The committee, meeting in Basel today, is chaired by M Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission. It comprises 11 EEC central bank governors, including Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton of the Bank of England, together with four experts - Mr Alexandre Lamfalussy, the general manager of the Bank for International Settlements, Mr Niels Thygesen, a Danish economics professor, Schor Miguel Boyer, a former Spanish finance minister, and Mr Frans Andriessen, a former Dutch finance minister and now an EEC commissioner.

The meeting will set an agenda for the committee's investigations, but Bank officials played down suggestions that it would be an occasion when Britain's differences with most EEC countries on this subject come to the fore.

Officials said it was very early days for substantive issues to be discussed, and any differences of opinion were unlikely to come to a head until the committee was ready to make its recommendations next year.

Even then, the committee has been set up as a technical body and is unlikely to divide on political grounds. Its members will be aware, however, that after the Hanover summit Mrs Thatcher said: "I do not share the vision of a United States of Europe and a single currency," adding that she did not expect to see a European central bank in her lifetime.

France has proposed the development of the existing European Monetary Co-operation Fund into a quasi-European central bank.

UK banks seek accord over capital adequacy

By Colin Narbrough

British banks are hoping that the meeting of central bankers in Basel today will achieve an accord on capital adequacy rules for the large banks, but fear West German caution could still postpone an agreement.

"We are hoping for a level playing field," a spokesman for Barclays Bank said yesterday, adding that any long adjustment periods, likely to be sought by West Germany or Japan, would have to be timed so as not to clash with the single European market, due to be completed in 1992.

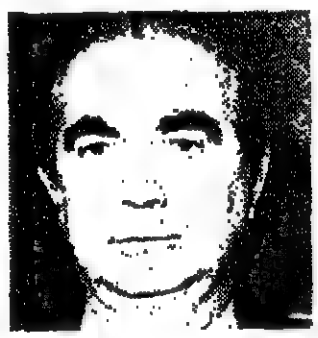
Apart from these concerns, the British banks support the proposals drawn up by the Cooke Committee, made up of representatives of the Group of 10 leading industrialized countries, which is chaired by Mr Peter Cooke, an associate director of the Bank of England.

The committee's final report, details of which emerged last week, calls for banks to be required by 1992 to hold capital broadly equivalent to 8 per cent of all assets carrying risk, with risk weighted according to type.

While this would oblige many countries to tighten capital adequacy standards, West Germany regards the definition of capital as over-liberal and could demand a five-year period in which to bring its rules into line, taking it beyond 1992, when Community-wide banking rules should come into force.

According to the proposals, core capital - equity and disclosed reserves - must form half the minimum capital a bank is required to hold, with the rest in supplementary capital such as long-term debt and loan-loss reserves.

The main objective behind the Cooke Committee's report is to safeguard the world's banking system against collapse triggered by failure in any one national market.



Peter Cooke: seeks safeguard

Lawson to warn on inflation

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will warn his Cabinet colleagues on Thursday of a potential resurgence of inflation. In his three-yearly review of the economy, Mr Lawson will announce that both inflation and the balance of payments deficit will turn out higher this year than expected at Budget-time, and will caution against relaxing the Government's grip on public spending.

Some ministers, however, are expected to argue that because the economy is growing faster than expected, public spending can be increased by more than allowed for in the figures inherited from the last public spending survey.

With both inflation and real growth above forecasts, national income could grow by at least 1 percentage point more than the expected 7.5 per cent.

Economic View 23

This would be equivalent to about £1.5 billion more on public spending.

Mr John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in presenting the opening arithmetic of this year's public spending survey, will point out that a good deal of the scope for manoeuvre in the existing spending plans has already been removed.

Last week's local authority settlement will add £1.5 billion to provisions for local authority expenditure, while the knock-on effect next year of this year's public sector pay awards could add another £1 billion. These demands will reduce the existing reserves of £7 billion and £10.5 billion for 1989 and 1990 to near the minimum working level. This leaves little scope without increasing the totals to satisfy the large bids for extra spending lodged with the Treasury.

Income tax could be abolished and three-quarters of the national debt repaid by the year 2000, says Greenwell Montagu, the bond dealer.

MGM film studio to be sold in \$200m deal

The lion roars for a new owner

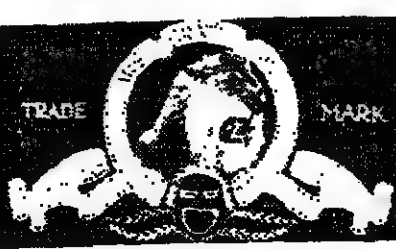
From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

The legendary Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film studio and its roaring lion trademark are being sold off by its parent group, in a complex deal that would raise more than \$200 million (£117 million) but leave the famous studio in veteran Hollywood hands.

A formal announcement of the sale is expected today, the *Los Angeles Times* said yesterday. The deal would see Mr Burr Sugarman, an investor, and two successful producers, Mr Jon Peters and Mr Peter Guber, ending up with 25 per cent of the company, according to industry sources.

Mr Kirk Kerkorian, who owns 82 per cent of the parent MGM-United Artists, will personally buy the balance of the financially burdened MGM film studio, after first offering its shares to shareholders of the parent company.

Details of the complicated arrangement were still being worked out over the weekend, but a source familiar with the transaction told the *Los Angeles Times* that MGM-UA will use money raised from the sale to help pay debts or



bankroll further television and film projects

Hollywood was happy that MGM, one of the oldest and best-known studios, would still be controlled by local filmmakers. MGM-UA had previously said it was entertaining offers for all or part of the studio, and one of the suitors was Sony Corporation, which raised the prospect of the first Japanese company to take over a Los Angeles film factory. The new company is expected to include MGM's lion logo and its film and TV division.

One source said Mr Kerkorian had been asking about \$200 million for the studio, and roughly \$1 billion for the entire company - considered somewhat high. As speculation spread through

Hollywood, MGM-UA shares closed at \$15.75 each, up almost \$1, valuing the group at \$787.5 million.

If the deal goes through, shareholders of the MGM-UA parent corporation will still own the studio's United Artists, along with its library of 950 films, including the *Rocky* and *Pink Panther* shows.

Hollywood would certainly feel comfortable if Mr Peters and Mr Guber took over creative control of the new MGM studio. They are considered one of the most successful production teams in Hollywood, with films such as *The Witches of Eastwick*, *The Color Purple*, *Innerspace*, and *Midnight Express* to their credit.

Except for the Oscar-winning *Moonstruck* and the TV hit *Thirtysomething*, the MGM film and TV division has not had great success. The company has been plagued by losses and is said to have used up much of its cash to fund new films. For the nine months ended May 31, MGM-UA lost \$10.8 million against a loss of \$41.9 million in the same period the previous year.



Filling up: Tom Harrison, the chairman of Norfolk House (Photograph: James Morgan)

Norfolk House to purchase East Midlands petrol chain

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Tom Harrison, who floated Norfolk House Group, his specialist property company, on the Unlisted Securities Market this year, is making another acquisition.

The company is expected to announce the expansion of its petrol station business by the addition of 12 more outlets in the East Midlands. The deal is likely to cost about £3.5 million.

This will lift the total number of service stations run by the group to 40. Mr Harrison, who started the business in 1983, is planning improvements to a large number of his sites, expected to result in a sharp increase in earnings.

He has been anxious to step up the contribution from the petrol retailing division. Norfolk House also offers a forecourt sales promotion service.

Mr Harrison will use cash to pay for the purchase of the 12 stations, preferring to use shares to make a larger acquisition later.

The group operates through three divisions: property, petrol forecourt management, and retail sales promotion. About 20 per cent of the company was placed at 100p per share, valuing the business at £24 million. Since then the shares have risen sharply and on Friday closed 1p higher at 154p.

Task force to help British in Japan

By Our City Staff

A task force has been set up by the Japanese to assist British companies to sell in Japan, after a weekend meeting between business leaders and ministers from the two countries.

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, spent the weekend hosting a seminar on Anglo-Japanese trade relations at St Andrews, attended by Mr Hajime Tamura, Japanese Minister for Trade.

Businessmen from leading Japanese companies, including Nissan and NEC, met and played golf with the British contingent which included Sir David Scholey of SG Warburg, the merchant bank, Sir Paul Girolami of Glaxo, and Mr Richard Giordano of BOC.

Lord Young said: "I was delighted at the progress we made, and believe the UK is firmly on course towards achieving its target of doubling trade with Japan over the next three years."

"In particular we agreed to establish a task force to advise British companies faced with problems in getting into Japanese markets."

"We also agreed to set up a special study of the distribution system in Japan, which has been a major obstacle for so many British companies."

"Japan is one of the UK's fastest growing export markets. As a result of this unique weekend I am confident we are going to see more businessmen regarding Japan as a realistic business opportunity," Lord Young added.

Property rise may revive takeovers

By Our City Staff

Escalating property values may spark a revival of takeover activity in the investment property sector.

"The property market has remained surprisingly unscathed despite the stock market crash, and professional valuations are continuing to be exceeded when properties are sold at auction," according to one stockbroker's analyst.

Wereldhave, the Dutch international property group, is expected to emerge as a key shareholder in Peachey Properties, the group which owns the Carnaby Street estate in central London.

Its shares were rising strongly last week amid rumours of stake-buying from abroad. Over the weekend, Wereldhave, which has a London listing, emerged as the clear favourite. Nobody was available at the company's headquarters in The Horse for comment.

Peachey is expected to have added handsomely to its asset value during the year to end-June, to be revealed in September. By the end of 1986-87, Peachey's asset value per share was 434p. Estimates for 1987-88 range between 540p and 600p.

Peachey has an attractive £250 million investment property portfolio and its shares are selling at a 10 per cent discount to the higher estimates of its up-to-date asset value.

Last week, Chelsford, the private property company run by Mr Elliott Bernard, declared a 5.6 per cent stake in Laing Properties.

KIO may cut BP stake, says bank chief

Kuwait (Reuters) - Kuwait might reduce its controversial 22 per cent stake in British Petroleum if conditions were right, the governor of the country's central bank said.

"The possibility is there. It all depends on market conditions," Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz al-Sabah said.

The London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) began buying shares in BP last October, after the stock market collapse dashed investor interest in the share offer.

"We are investors. At any time we find there is an opportunity to sell our investments, definitely we will move ahead," said Sheikh Salem, a board member of KIO's Kuwait-based parent, the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

Asked if this meant the investment was only short-term, Sheikh Salem replied: "It's a long-term investment, but if the market conditions are OK to us and the prices are reasonable, I don't think there is anything against selling."

Some sections of the media and Opposition politicians have criticized the stake as a threat to national interests, and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has launched an inquiry.

"It's up to them [critics] to have any kind of criticism about it, but we feel we have not really broken the law so far," Sheikh Salem said.

Investment bankers put KIA overseas holdings at more than \$80 billion (£47 billion).

Sheikh Salem said the country's finance minister had formed a committee to carry out its own probe of the KIO and report back to the ministry and the KIA board.

Berkertex likely to win Ellis

Agreement to the £40.8 million bid for Ellis & Goldstein, the clothing company, by Berkertex Holdings, the private clothing group, is expected today after Berkertex directors were invited to a meeting with Ellis & Goldstein yesterday.

Mr Alain Defiez of SG Warburg, the merchant bank acting for Berkertex, said yesterday: "Being a Sunday afternoon it is taking a while to collect all the relevant directors, but we are expecting Ellis & Goldstein to agree to our final offer. We are prepared to discuss details but the price will not be raised."

Berkertex raised its bid to a final 140p a share on Friday, valuing Ellis & Goldstein's shares on a 1987-88 price ratio of 23.7 times and the whole company at £40.8 million.

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Analysts looking for £220m on the profit shelves at Asda

TODAY

Asda, the supermarkets chain chaired by Mr John Hardman, reports annual results. Analysts' pre-tax profit forecasts range between £213 million and £220 million for the year to January 31, compared with £192 million last year.

Asda has been one of the worst-performing shares of the year, beset by worries on the performance of the southern stores and news of the resignation of Mr Edward Lea, the finance director, which led to fears that there had been a big boardroom disagreement.

There is still a great deal of concern over the company's move into central distribution, which will obviously incur sizeable, start-up costs and erode earnings growth this year, but the refurbishments into modern styles continue to prove successful.

Ellis & Everard, the specialist chemicals merchant and processor, turned in a 23 per cent profit increase to £4.1 million at the half-way stage, helped by a string of acquisitions which continued into the second half.

A feature of its performance has been an increase in profits from the US businesses, all of which were reported to be doing well up to the end of December. The market is looking for pre-tax profits in the £8 million region for the year to end-April - up from £6.6 million last time.

Interims: Berkeley Govett, Cons Tern Investments, Evode Group.

Finals: Asda Group, Baileys, Carole Engineering Group, Creighton Laboratories, Ellis & Everard, Leopold Joseph Holdings, Knobs & Knockers, Sekers International, Stocklake Holdings, Sutcliffe Speakman.

TOMORROW

In May, Davy Corporation, the process plant engineer, shocked its friends in the City, who had been looking for a continued improvement from the difficulties of the early years of this decade, with news of a £25 million loss on a £100 million West German contract.

It would, therefore, have to make provisions covering the cost of modifying the desulphurization process at the



Patrick Meany: lower tax

power plant concerned, which would clip £17.5 million off the profits for the year to end-March, the company said.

But profits, excluding the provision, were expected to be slightly higher than the previous year's £27.6 million, the board added.

Thus armed, analysts cut back their profit forecasts to little more than £10 million, clearly unwilling to give the company the benefit of any doubt.

One engineer with a happier tale to tell is Howden Group, based in Glasgow. After earning just £142,000 in the year to end-April 1987, pre-tax profits should be boosted to more than £10 million the following year. The previous figures included the costs of its involvement in an ill-conceived Californian windmills project, but the company was then given a thorough shake-up.

There are doubts, however, about the short-term effect on earnings per share of January's £9.5 million acquisition of the Davidson Pan Division from fellow engineer Abercrombie.

Interims: Microgen Holdings, Parkdale Holdings.

Finals: AMI Healthcare Group (third quarter), Davy Corporation, Ford Sellar Morris Properties, Howden Group, Markheath Securities, Morris Ashby, Parkfield Group, Resmore, Sandell Perkins, Wyko Group.

WEDNESDAY

Dixons, the high street elec-



Stanley Kalms: high hopes

trical retailer, hit by the departure of Mr Egon von Greyerz, the well-respected executive vice-chairman and financial director, reports annual results for the year to April 1988, which are expected to make unpleasant reading.

The figures will conclude an awful year for the group, and analysts' pre-tax profit forecasts range between £104 million and £109 million, including a first-time £13 million contribution from Silo, against £102.6 million last time.

A brake has been put on earnings growth by well-documented problems such as over-

stocking, a dearth of new products, plummeting prices and adverse currency influences.

Next year, however, should see the group, chaired by Mr Stanley Kalms, return to previous rates of high growth as the new management structure integrates the buying, marketing and locational policies of the main retail chains. The prospective launch of the £199 satellite dish also gives



John Hardman: concern

cause for hope and most analysts believe the worst should be over.

Interims: Biotechnology Investments, General Consolidated Investment Trust, M&G Global Trust, Union Discount Company of London.

Finals: Dixons Group, Mortgage Investment Trust, Quest Group, Rush & Tompkins.

THURSDAY

Phillips & Drew, the broker, is going for little improvement from AAH Holdings, the pharmaceuticals supplier and fuel distributor chaired by Mr Bill Pybus, on the £23.01 million pre-tax profit made in the year to end-March 1987. Other market estimates add perhaps £500,000 to that figure.

The company this year became involved in the dispute over fellow pharmaceuticals distributor UniChem's plans to change from a friendly society to a quoted company. UniChem's controversial share incentive scheme, the subject of an investigation by the Government's Office of Fair Trading, would undoubtedly badly affect AAH's pharmaceuticals side.

Shares of Ferranti International Signal, the electronics group, perked up last month when analysts at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, issued a bullish review of the company. Shareholders will therefore be hoping for further good news in the shape of impressive annual results

when the company reports.

Analysts' forecasts range between £65 million and £72 million, against £50.2 million last year.

James Capel, the broker, has pencilled in £69 million, but suggests that earnings will increase only by 4 per cent in 1988-89, underlining the company's 70 per cent exposure to the depressed defence market.

Mr John Tysoe, analyst at County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, is going for £67 million and thinks the outlook for defence expenditure worldwide is better than pessimistic suggestions. He says Ferranti's order book is good and believes it will win the important Eurofighter radar order.

Rank Organisation, chaired by Sir Patrick Meany, should report interim pre-tax profits to end-April of £101 million, forecasts Mrs Jane Anson, analyst at BZW, in a circular published last week.

Of more import is a possible increase in earnings per share from 22.9p to 28p, helped by a lower tax charge at the Rank Xerox associate.

Rank Xerox should also show a good underlying profit increase, although its performance last time was boosted by a currency gain. Total pre-tax profits last time were £90.1 million.

Interims: Associated Newspapers Holdings, Central Motor Auctions, Daily Mail and General Trust, Dewhurst, Domino Printing Sciences, Kershaw (A) & Sons, Kleen-E-Ze Holdings, Low & Bonar, Norfolk House Group, Rank Organisation.

Finals: AAH Holdings, Barbour Index, British Building and Engineering Appliances, Brunning Group, Cambridge Instrument Company, Ferranti, Jones Stroud (Holdings), William Ransom & Son, Eliza Tinsley, SW Wood Group.

FRIDAY

Interim: Task Force Group. Finals: LIT Holdings, Symonds Engineering, Westworth International.

Martin Waller and Geoffrey Foster

ECONOMIC VIEW

Marking the Cabinet's public spending essay

Thursday's Cabinet meeting on public spending takes place at a ticklish moment. The City has been partially reassured by the 2½ per cent points rise in interest rates over the past six weeks, and will take further comfort from increases in mortgage rates as and when they occur. But there is still some grumbling about the fiscal policy set in the Budget. Any hint of fiscal relaxation next year would not be well received.

Of course, fiscal policy is not set in July, or indeed at any other time, by decisions on public spending alone. The important thing is the balance between spending and revenue. None the less, the City's "teenage scribbles," and their rich uncles who actually move the money, will be reading the Cabinet's moves on Thursday carefully for any sign of slackening resolve to keep spending under control.

How should they assess the Cabinet's decisions? Ironically, the criteria for success have become vaguer the better the economy performs. When growth was low or negative and inflation high the objective was clear (even if it was seldom fully achieved). Public spending had to be kept from rising in real terms and the cash totals designed to achieve this had to be carried over, without tampering, from one survey to the next.

But with sustained growth in the economy now well above the rate achieved for most of the 1970s the position is different. The change in circumstances was implicitly recognized this time last year when the Cabinet agreed to keep public spending falling as a proportion of GDP but did not reaffirm unequivocally its determination to stick to the cash totals carried over from the previous survey - only to get as close to them as possible. In the event £2.5 billion was added to the figures for 1988-89 and £5.5 billion to 1989-90.

But public spending still fell as a proportion of GDP - and because of the rapid growth in the economy fell by more than implied at the time of the previous survey. In last year's Budget general government expenditure excluding privatization proceeds was projected to be about 42 per cent of GDP in 1988-89, while in this year's Budget it was projected for the same year to be 41½ per cent.

As 1988-89 proceeds, the ratio is likely to turn out lower still because money GDP is growing faster than expected. Instead of the economy expanding by 3 per cent this year as forecast it may grow by at least 3½ per cent, while inflation is likely to be higher than the forecast 4½ per cent for the GDP deflator. Money GDP will, therefore, expand by rather more than the projected 7½ per cent, and public spending will turn out to have been a smaller proportion. This in turn will bring down the ratio of spending to GDP in 1989-90, the focal year of the present survey.

Voices will undoubtedly be heard around the Cabinet table arguing that this justifies adding to the spending totals. Although the reserve built into the figures for next year is larger than in previous years and could allow ministers to add, say, £3.5 billion to programmes if the present £7 billion were reduced to the same sort of in-year reserve as in the current year, a good deal of this has already been mortgaged.

Last week's local authority settlement will cost £1.5 billion and there are already several strong claims on the rest including, for instance, the knock-on effect of this year's pay settlement for nurses. The pressures on the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, John Major, are not likely to be any less than in previous years.

The bottom line is whether, and by how much, spending falls as a proportion of GDP. In years when the economy is growing faster than its long-term trend the reduction in the ratio should arguably be greater. A good test is whether the final decisions, which will not be reached before the beginning of November, deliver (as they did last year) a lower ratio of spending to GDP than previously projected for 1989-90.

In order to see the way in which the debate over public spending is changing, it is worth glancing back at the green paper on long-term trends in public spending issued at the time of the 1984 Budget. Its conclusion remains valid: "Without firm control over public spending there can be no prospect of bringing the burden of tax back to tolerable levels."

But its assumptions look increasingly dated. The alternative scenarios painted then were based on real growth in the economy of 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent and real growth in public spending of either nil or 1 per cent. By contrast the latest attempt at a long-term forward look, by the former Treasury economist Simon Briscoe, now working for Greenwell Montagu, can assume a growth rate of 3 per cent a year without sounding impossibly optimistic.

The kind of pressures for higher spending which growth at this rate may have to sustain will depend heavily on five key programmes: social security (including pensions), health, defence, education and law and order. These now dominate public spending to a greater extent than during the 1970s, and some of them will again figure in Thursday's preliminary discussion on spending priorities. A faster-growing economy will make it easier to satisfy the public's desire for better services in these areas.

But the path to be trodden is a delicate one, and never more so than in the present context of rising inflation and a growing balance of payments deficit.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Jaguar sales leap to interim record

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Jaguar sales world-wide climbed 11.5 per cent to a record 24,742 in the first six months of 1988, buoyed by a 32 per cent jump in Britain.

British registrations reached 7,680 in the January to June period, more than the whole of 1986. This year the company will sell more than 14,000 cars in Britain, compared with 11,102 in 1987, as customers continue to wait up to 10 months for delivery.

But the weaker US market for luxury imported cars has forced Jaguar to revise its 1988 forecast. Earlier this year the target was set at 28,000 cars to 25,000 and now Jaguar expects 23,000 sales there this year, against 22,900 in 1987.

For the first six months sales are down by 1.3 per cent compared with the first half of

1987, after falls of 20 and 13 per cent in May and June.

"Everybody is in the same position in America but we have managed to maintain fairly orderly marketing," said a spokesman. In September the new XJS convertible is launched in America and is expected to sell 1,000 this year. The US takes almost half the XJS production.

The cutback in the US has caused the company to cut planned 1988 production from 56,000 to 54,000, 12.5 per cent above 1987.

Ironically the productivity improvements that led to Jaguar workers threatening strike action in April have now been achieved on schedule. Production is running close to 1,300 cars a week, an annual rate of 60,000 cars.

Volvo to expand on the Continent

By Our Motor Industry Correspondent

Volvo BV, the small car manufacturer owned jointly by the Dutch government and Volvo Sweden, aims to reduce its sales dependence on Britain, and will expand into new production facilities on the Continent in preference to Britain.

Mr Geoffrey Wright, executive vice-president of Volvo BV, commented: "We are heavily dependent upon the UK market and we are not happy about this because of the UK currency, so we want to build up a better balance in Europe."

Britain is currently by far the biggest market for the ageing 300 series model built by Volvo BV. This year British registrations will account for 42,000 of the 95,000 small Volvos produced in The Netherlands.

Production capacity at the Born plant in the Limburg region has been increased from 100,000 to 150,000 cars a year at a cost of £350 million, by introducing flexible manufacturing systems to replace old dedicated lines.

Mr Wright said that once output of the new 400 series and 300 series reaches 175,000 cars a year, the company would look for an additional factory.

However, he emphasized that it was unlikely the plant would be located in Britain despite the importance of the market to the company.

In the long term, Volvo BV will have to face the huge costs of replacing its 300 series in order to remain competitive in the Ford Escort class.

Mitel chief forecasts turnaround to profits

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mitel Corporation, the transatlantic telecommunications venture in which British Telecom has a 51 per cent stake, is close to moving back into the black after years of losses.

The forecast was made by Mr John Jarvis, Mitel's president, brought in 11 months ago when BT grew anxious over Mitel's performance.

By last March wide-ranging reorganization was being implemented at Mitel, with more than 400 jobs axed, including 60 at its British plant at Caldicot in Gwent, South Wales. Mitel now employs 1,000 people in South Wales, making products such as telephone exchange switches. A staff of 20 is involved in research and development.

There were 200 redundancies in Canada, Mitel's traditional base, and a plant in Florida was closed.

Recruiting has begun again as sales have risen. In the first quarter of this financial year, starting in March, sales in Britain rose more than a half over the same period the previous year, although Mr Jarvis attributes part of this to a switch to direct marketing with Mitel's own sales teams.

He is looking for a 10 per cent sales improvement overall this year, with 7 per cent of turnover from semiconductor sales. Mitel slid into the red in 1984, reaching £160.2 million (about £78 million) losses in 1986. But in the year to last March performance improved, with losses of £80.5 million on a turnover of £453.4 million.

Mr Jarvis summed up the changes: "The reorganization has taken £45 million in expenses out of the business. Morale is good. Sales are comfortably up. We might not have got round the corner but I do believe we are turning it."

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	10.00%
Adam & Company	10.00%
BCCI	10.00%
Consolidated Creds	10.00%
Co-operative Bank	10.00%
C. Hoare & Co	10.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat. Westminster	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Citibank NA	10.00%

Perhaps there is a logical reason after all as to why some copies of Allied Irish Bank's annual report were printed, in part, upside down. After learning of its error in this column, group marketing manager Niall Gallagher tells me it has just opened a Sydney branch.

Carol Leonard

Turning the tide at Scrimgeour

Has the tide at last been turned at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers? The beleaguered broking firm has, I hear, just recruited one new member of staff - its first recruit for almost six months. See Scott, oil sector analyst, Alexander Laming & Cruickshank, has handed in her notice - along with her colleague Rick Jones who is off to County NatWest - and joins the oil team led by Arthur Hepher at Scrimgeour next Monday. She will be the first person to take up employment in research there since February. The publicity surrounding the steady stream of defections from Scrimgeour over the past few months has now put it in a prime position to cream off the best of the dissatisfied and displaced employees elsewhere.

"We went through a patch when we didn't get many job inquiries, but now we're being deluged," says Chris Clark, head of research. "I'm getting two or three phone calls a day and some of them are good people." The research department, which hit a peak of 50 analysts a year ago, is now down to 35. "Four or five were made redundant, one graduate trainee decided he did not want to be a stockbroker and the others left to go elsewhere," says Clark. "But the situation has now stabilized and we have made job offers to one or two other people as well. We hope to be back to full strength by the end of the year."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Early wealth warning

Great Ormond Street Hospital could find itself the proud owner of two new microscopes - worth £17,000 - sooner than it had anticipated, thanks to the increasing number of job losses and defections from the broker Hoare Govett. The four Hoare Govett equity salesmen who raised that amount of sponsorship last December, on condition they give up smoking for a year, have written to all their sponsors asking them to cough up now. "Only two of the four of us are still with the

firm and lots of our sponsors have also moved on," says James Stratton. "If any more leave, the statistical problem of collecting the money will be enormous." The four - who include Richard Kelsey, Peter Cazelet, now at Warburg, and Walter Walker, made redundant two weeks ago - say they are now confirmed non-smokers. But should they relapse, they promise they will repay the money to sponsors, proportionately, from their own pockets.

Return trip

What is the connection between Alec Monk, the ebullient chairman and chief executive of Dee Corporation - our third largest food retailer - and Paul Eddington, the star of Yes Prime Minister?

Answer: Sheffield University. Monk was apparently a research assistant in the university's business studies department for a year during the mid-1960s. Actor Eddington was once in the ranks at the Sheffield Playhouse and is currently a co-sponsor of the university's Geoffrey Ost Appeal, which is linked to the theatre. Their association will be officially cemented at the end of this week when the pair return to the City to join seven others who are also to have honorary degrees conferred upon them by Sheffield University.

"Actually, I like to think I'm still something in the City - I'm a redundancy counsellor."

Manga mania

The Japanese are comic mad. Everyone in Japan reads them. But mangas, as they are known, are very different to our own Beano. And because of their popularity, they are seen as an excellent way of educating the populace about matters too boring in ordinary book form. Finance is one such area, and Japan's Economic Planning Agency is, I hear, issuing a comic version of its annual white paper on the economy. One manga in this field has come into our hands, Hisashi Ishii's *Economic*. Its translation into English gives a rare insight into Japanese attitudes towards the stock market. Two men are talking at a securities house. A says: "Ha ha ha ha. We're making a killing. With everyone playing the stock market, all the securities firms are showing two-digit profit growth." B: "But if we make too much money, people will start demanding lower commissions and liberalization of the market like they did in the US. A: 'We can't let that happen. We've got to show some kind of loss.' B: 'That's no problem boss. All we have to do is set up a separate firm and let it play the market. Then we'll lose money.'"

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Carol Leonard

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Ranger	Oil Gas	
2	Laifrose (a)	Portals/Carriers	
3	ADT (a)	Insurance	
4	Lea	Motors/Aircraft	
5	Quora Automation	Electronics	
6	Fisons (a)	Chemicals	
7	LWT Hides	Chemicals	
8	Shandwick	Power/Print/Ad	
9	Plasticon	Plastics	
10	Reyon	Textiles	
11	Hanson (a)	Industrials	
12	Long Shop	Property	
13	Davis (a)	Industrials	
14	Zetters (a)	Leisure	
15	Miller (Stanley)	Building/Roads	
16	Bechtel (a)	Industrials	
17	Simon Eng	Industrials	
18	Chesfield	Property	
19	Asda	Property	
20	Luca (a)	Motors/Aircraft	
21	ASDA Group (a)	Food	
22	West Trust	Textiles	
23	VG Instruments	Electronics	
24	Cable Wireless (a)	Electronics	
25	Ward Group	Building/Roads	
26	Pharmax	Pharmaceuticals	
27	Assoc Newspaper	Newspapers/Pub	
28	Aus New Z	Banks/Discount	
29	Persimmon	Building/Roads	
30	Unipetrol	Industrials	
31	NEI	Electronics	
32	Redland (a)	Building/Roads	
33	Baynes (Charles)	Industrials	
34	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
35	Worcester	Industrials	
36	Fill Paves	Industrials	
37	Cent SR	Drapers/Stores	
38	Jardine Math	Industrials	
39	Amurad (a)	Electronics	
40	Yorkshire TV	Cinema/TV	
41	Leslie Wale Gp	Drapers/Stores	
42	BTR (a)	Industrials	
43	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Div	Yield
Standard	Share	Price	Change	Div	Yield	Div	Yield
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

UNDATED

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

INDEX-LINKED

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 4. Dealings end July 15. Contango day July 18. Settlement day July 25.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

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Claims required for 52 points
ACCUMULATOR £118,000
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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield	P/E
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000



EXECUTIVE CARS

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Buying an image on a budget



As the tax goes
up on company
cars, executives
are having more

say in what cars, even foreign, they
will drive, reports Daniel Ward

A budget of £12,000-£20,000 is enough to buy an executive car, either a well-equipped British badge model or an image-enhancing BMW or Mercedes. Both sporty and sedate styles are available to the executive, who is almost certainly spending company money.

The price alone used to restrict most executives to the home-grown Rovers and Ford Granadas. But the market is changing. As the Chancellor raises the taxation on company cars, so their drivers demand more say in which car they drive.

Companies are also being forced increasingly to provide "perk cars" as a tax-efficient way of keeping key staff.

Yet there is no point in blunting the point of this recruitment tool by offering an angular Volvo 700 series to the man who aspires to a sporty BMW 3 series. Hence the choice is widening.

For many companies, the first step is to include EEC-produced cars on the executive car list, which already features the German-built Vauxhall Carlton/Senator and Ford Granada. And once Audi and small BMWs start to appear in the executive car park, it is obvious to include the Swedish Saab and Volvo.

When a director demands a Volvo because it is one of the few large estate cars on the market, no fleet manager is going to argue.

Where a choice is offered, foreign models are strongly favoured because, in most people's minds, a BMW, say, is less obviously a company car than a Rover.

Customer clinics by one top car maker produced the sur-

prising result that executive car drivers are more concerned with image and status than what a car looks like. Even BMW and Mercedes failed to receive high marks for styling, which was judged uninspiring. It is the reputation of these German marques that counts.

Inevitably, their high pricing excludes them from challenging the best-selling Fords and Vauxhalls, but they enjoy a growing share of the executive market. Volvo has shown it is prepared to develop specific models in order to woo the British company car buyer.

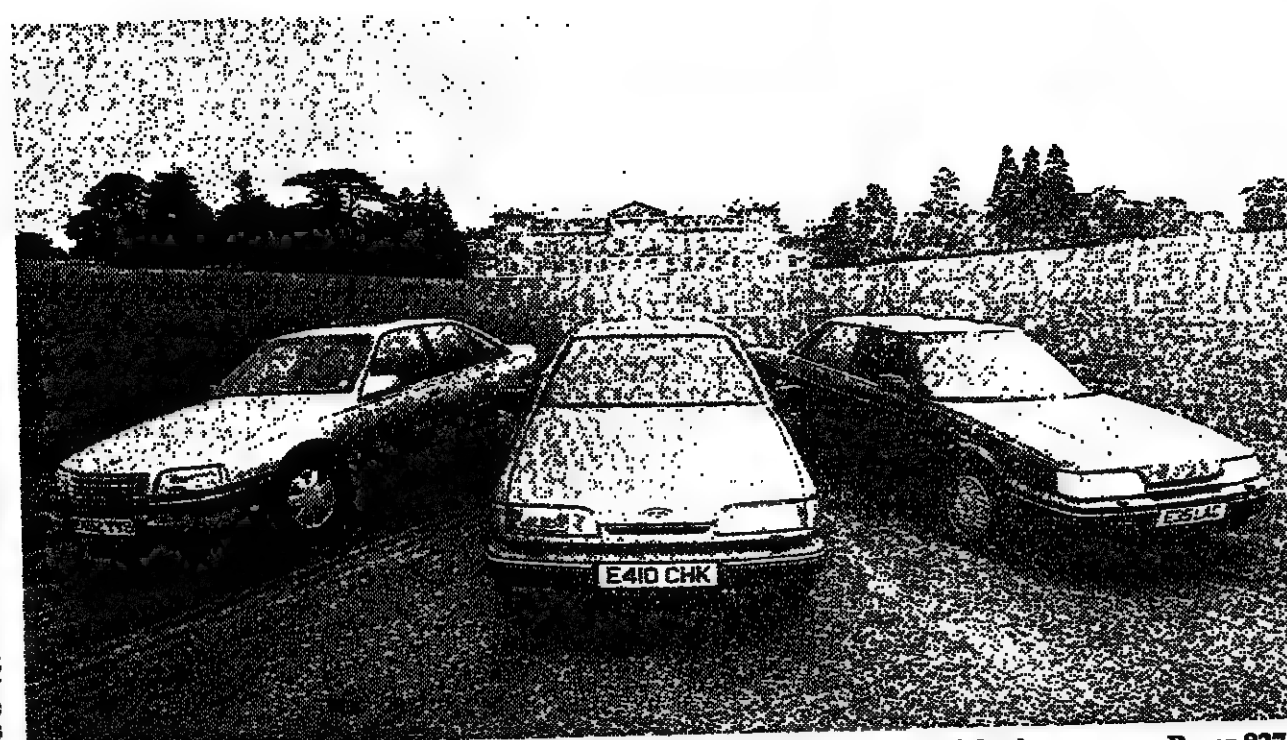
By introducing a 2-litre version, the company is able to offer a 740GL for £12,280, £500 less than Vauxhall's 2-litre Carlton GL. Because Volvo's only obvious opposition in the large estate-car sector comes from the Carlton, estates account for a significant proportion of the 700 series sales.

By combining sales of the ageing 200 series and the square-shouldered 700 series, Volvo stands in third place in the executive class this year, headed only by the Ford Granada and Vauxhall Carlton/Senator models.

Ford's market share has slipped in the last year as new rivals have appeared. The Granada's engines are seen as long in the tooth compared with the opposition.

Ford is developing a saloon version of the Granada because this seems the most acceptable design configuration for executive cars.

The Carlton has become the archetypal company car for rising executives, helped by its large modern appearance and good road-holding. Its owner has clearly risen from the



German-built executive cars, Vauxhall Senator, left, and Ford Granada, and right, home-grown Rover 827

massed ranks of Sierra and Cavalier drivers.

Strangely, the 2.5/3-litre Senator is finding the going less easy and sales are markedly lower than for the six-cylinder Rovers that account for a third of all the 800 models sold.

The 800 is set to make further ground in this class with the launch of its Fastback range, which for the first time extends the range down to the 820 powered by an 8 valve O series engine. At the top end, the old Vitesse now has a successor based on the new hatchback body.

At £20,000, it epitomizes the choice facing the executive car buyer. With less equipment and performance a 2.9-litre Jaguar XJ6 could be had for the same sum; a more compact BMW 325 with money to spare or stretching the budget would bring the handsome new 5 series into reach.

Few people choose the well-equipped Jaguar 2.9 Sovereign, but the standard model is undoubtedly attractively priced at £19,200.

France and Italy have never managed to sell many executive cars in Britain, having

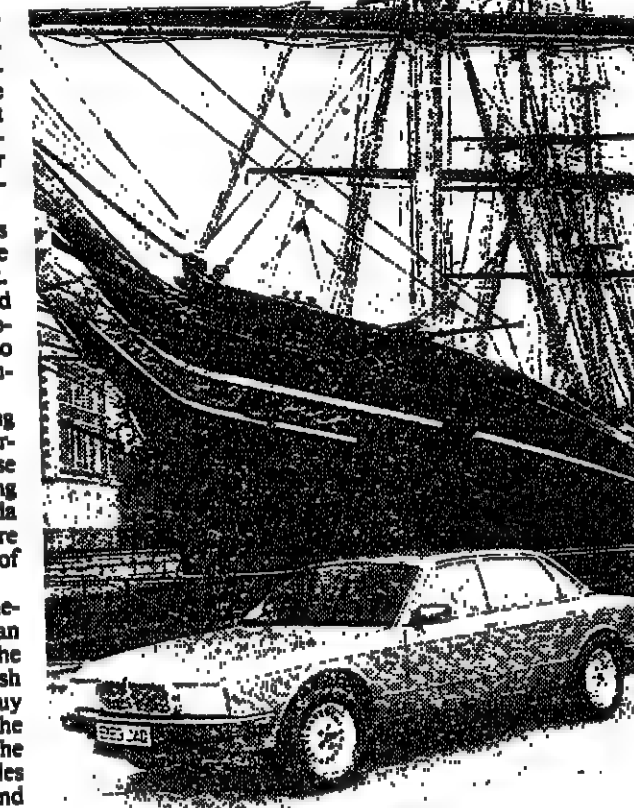
failed to establish any worthy image for cars that are perceived as capacious but ultimately mass-produced. The models, such as the Renault 25 and Fiat Croma, are invariably positioned at the lower end of the sector, commanding lower prices than rivals.

The Lancia Thema deserves better recognition for its style and high level of equipment. The exception to this could be the forthcoming Alfa Romeo 164 - the best model to come from the Milan company for some time.

But these cars are being chased and may soon be overshadowed by the Japanese executive cars. In engineering terms, cars such as the Honda Legend and Toyota Camry are already a match for many of the European cars.

What will limit their penetration into the European executive car bastion is the expectation that larger British companies will retain a "Buy European" policy for the future, thereby leaving the Japanese to pitch for sales among the self-employed and smaller firms in this sector.

The author is Motor Industry Correspondent of The Times



Jaguar Sovereign 3.6: The badge on the bonnet counts

Battle of the Big Three

Together, the Big Three - Ford Granada, the Rover 800 series and Vauxhall Carlton - accounted for between five and six out of every 10 executive car sales in 1987, depending on how divisions are drawn.

But somewhat lost in the euphoria is the fact that the benefits are not equitably distributed among them.

Ford, for instance, has seen its Granada range - the long-standing UK market leader in this segment with approximately 20 per cent of registrations - slide six per cent in sales against the rising trend.

The performance of the Rover Group's 800 series, accounting for about one in eight executive class sales, has not lived up to expectations.

The gainer all along has been Vauxhall, whose Carlton, cashing in on the success of the Cavalier in the fleet market, has proved a much bigger hit than expected.

Though one should be wary of placing too much importance on interim figures, the Vauxhall does indeed have the form of a winner. Sales returns for the first five months of this year show the Carlton/Senator some 50 per cent up on the equivalent period last year, and only a few hundred units short of the Granada's year-to-date total of 15,841.

The Rover 800, meanwhile, is lagging well behind in third place, though if one extrapolates the five-month figures to the end of the year all three contenders should finish well ahead of their 1987 totals.

As a predominantly company-based vehicle, there can be no doubt that the Granada has been hit harder by the Carlton than has the Rover, while considered solely from the technical viewpoint the Ford is now beginning to seem mechanically unrefined in relation to its opposition.

In particular, the 2-litre fuel-injection "tax-break" en-

gine, the choice of 40 per cent of Granada customers, is unsophisticated and delivers mediocre performance when compared with Rover's advanced 16-valve unit.

Engines are, in fact, Ford's weak suit throughout, with both 2.4 and 2.9-litre V6s failing to deliver the speed or the refinement required in an executive car. And sadly, there is little evidence to suggest that Ford's pioneering fitment of anti-lock braking as standard on all Granadas (it's up to £1,100 extra on most rivals) has been of any material marketing benefit.

A big headache for every Ford marketing man must be the company's lack of a large estate car. Though the Vauxhall Carlton estate accounts for only one in seven of GM executive car sales it is nevertheless an important asset.

If Vauxhall has a weak area it's in the image its cars project: even the top £20,000 Senator, with advanced automatic and electronically regulated suspension, is uncomfortably bland in design and finish, both inside and out, though in common with the gaudily-kitted Carlton GSi 3000, it drives nearly as enjoyably as a big BMW.

In terms of finish, quality of materials, and perceived luxury there can be no doubt that the Rover leads its rivals.

Rover's 800 has what on the face of it seems an ideal portfolio of assets - advanced engines, especially the recently enlarged Honda V6, sophisticated chassis design, tasteful quality interior treatment, and strong performance.

Yet any analysis of why the range has failed to achieve its targets must necessarily home in on the traditional Rover bogey - perceived, and all too often actual, unreliability.

Tony Lewin

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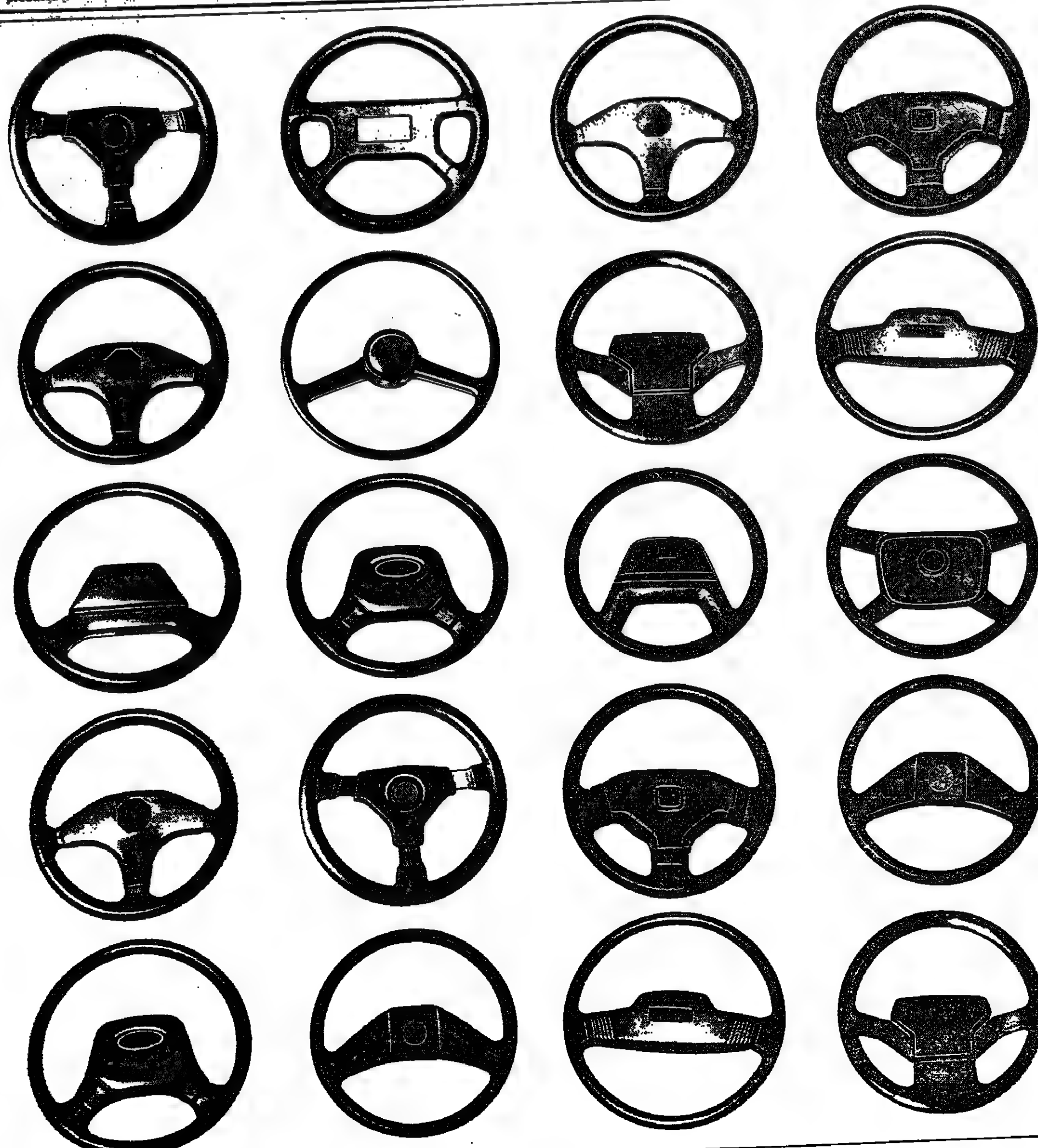
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EXECUTIVE CARS/2

MARK ELLIDGE



Honda Legend: coupe version has given European buyers a taste of Japanese sophistication



Toyota Camry GT: the four-wheel drive derivative that has not really hit the target



Volvo 760: With up to 20 per cent UK content by value, more British than a Granada

Tony Lewin looks at temptations from abroad for the patriotic motorist



A rallying cry often heard in Britain's motor industry and boardrooms is "Buy British", but the slogan is becoming increasingly hollow as it is hard to put into practice.

A decade ago, the choice for most company car users was stark: drive a British vehicle, or none at all. Now, though, many companies still implement a strict "Buy British" policy, the choice appears to be very much wider — especially in the executive-car class.

Rover, Ford and Vauxhall all offer a wide-ranging line-up of large, luxurious models to satisfy the whim of every executive driver, and together the Rover 800, Granada and Carlton account for well over half of the big business car market.

Unfortunately, however, two of these models are not

British at all, despite their familiar badges and names.

In fact, if the company car executive wished to remain true to his or her "Buy British" principles, he should replace his Carlton or Granada with a Rover 800 or Jaguar XJ6. Failing that, he should do the next most patriotic thing and ask for a Volvo.

Surprising though it might appear, every 200, 740 and 760 contains between 15 and 20 per cent UK content by value, while the corresponding figure for a Carlton is between 10 and 15 per cent, and that for a Granada is just at zero — at least until Ford's Dagenham plant begins building the multi-delayed Swift 16-valve 1.6 engine, estimated for the big cars.

Though the Volvo is plainly and proudly a Swedish car, and a Renault is equally honest about its French origins, beneath their fragile marketing veneers of Britishness, the Granada and Carlton are, actually, 100 per cent German — as German, in fact, as a BMW, an Audi or a Mercedes-Benz.

The reason is well-known and simple: West Germany is widely acknowledged as the country that is best at building high-quality, high-speed executive cars — as the design, performance and specification of the latest models eloquently testify.

Just introduced in Britain, the new BMW 5-series is perhaps the best-modern executive car coming out of Germany. It is well priced, too, and is certain

to be very successful in Britain, always one of BMW's best markets.

Also famed for its high-performing quattro four-wheel drive models, are still suffering the after-effects of the UK crash and need to have the same of their direction while waiting for their new 1.8 models this autumn.

More recent, and very complex, executive cars come from Sweden, arriving in the UK as the Volvo 740 GLE, 760 GLE and 780 GLE. The latter is expected to move into much advanced specification technology.

Sweden's Saab and Volvo executive cars are of design and construction more than equal to those in Germany, and are particularly good for their standard safety.

Swedish Saab is now adopting a more mainstream design pol-

icy and its 9000 Turbo is a spacious high performer with a sporting bias.

Volvo's UK executive car sales look impressive — the Swedish firm sales fourth after the "Big Three" — but more than half these models are imported.

As with specifications, the 7-series models are not as complex as those of the German cars, but they are more sophisticated than the latest 740, 760 and 780 models, which are still in the early stages of development.

Volvo's 780 GLE is the only executive car in the UK market to have a 24-valve engine, and it is expected to move into much advanced specification technology.

Practically all of the Volvo 780 GLE has been transferred back to Japan, but the intelligent high-priced coupe version has given the firm a new first (and so far their only) model of just how sophisticated and sophisticated Japanese engineering can now be.

The Legend is imported in the US under the Accord label in order to present a more up-

market, more European image — and it is perhaps no coincidence that Nissan and Toyota are adopting precisely the same policy when their Infiniti and Lexus luxury V8 executive models begin production next year.

Aimed head-on at BMW, Mercedes and even Jaguar, these models will both astonish and worry European industry with their complex specifications.

It is easy to be complacent because so far Japanese executive cars have been no match for the European designs.

Even advanced models such as Toyota's four-wheel drive Camry have not really hit the target.

The same was said about Japanese cars just a few years ago, but they are now market leaders, rather than third followers.

Toyota is now alone in reaching for highly sophisticated technologies, and by 1993 the executive car market is certain to look very different indeed.

Alfa Romeo 164 3.0i V6: Already acclaimed, although no UK sales launch until September



Alfa Romeo 164 3.0i V6: Already acclaimed, although no UK sales launch until September

The tempting 'extras' that boost profits

You could be forgiven for thinking that an executive car comes loaded with all the necessary executive accessories. You'd be wrong.

As with every other class of car, the manufacturers have worked out a careful game plan to tempt you to spend more than you — originally envisaged — on extras which make your vehicle that little bit more special than the others, writes Peter Dargatzis.

For the car industry and the dealers it's a sound marketing tactic, promising higher levels of profit than that achievable on the basic new car.

Even so, there are certain features that you have every right to expect to be fitted as standard equipment.

Power-assisted steering, for example, is a virtual necessity in these heavy cars; central door locking does away with the inelegant scramble across the car to release the other locks; electrically operated windows, in the front at least, are an amusing diversion even if they do not fall into the "really useful" category.

Expect to find these features in most models.

Even the Germans seem to have taken heed of customer pressure, with the latest BMW 5 series having quite a reasonable level of fittings, even in the most basic versions. That doesn't mean, however, that it is not easy to add another 25 per cent to the cost by adding extras, such as the following:

● **Air conditioning**, typically costing £1,000, turns the car into a mobile refrigerator when the weather demands it, therefore hardly likely to get much use in the UK.

● **Alloy wheels**, £500. These are lighter than steel wheels and there are good reasons for their use on competition cars, but for road use the appeal is largely cosmetic.

● **Anti-lock brakes**, £500 to £1,000. A great safety feature on slippery roads. Often fitted as standard on top-of-the-range models, and on all Ford Granadas.

● **Anti-theft alarm**, £200 to

£300. A huge variety available, with the price directly indicative of the level of protection offered.

● **Automatic transmission**, £500 to £1,000. There have been tremendous advances in automatics in recent years. Anything without four forward gears should not be taken seriously.

● **Cruise control**, £300. This electronically controls the cruising speed no matter what the incline of the road. Obviously only of any use on motorways.

● **Headlamp wash**, £200. Cleans the headlamps when you wash the screen at night. These with wipers too are a whole lot better.

● **In-car entertainment** — the sky's the limit on cost. Most West German manufacturers will supply their cars without a stereo on the assumption that the owner will want to choose the precise model. Though the car dealers always offer a range, it is common to deal with a car audio specialist who will offer a great choice.

● **Leather trim**, £1,000 to £1,500. Still reckoned by many to be the ultimate "classy" extra. Make sure what you are getting — the "leather" on one option list is a full interior trim; on another it may be just the seat facings.

● **Paint finish**, £175 to £500. It seems astonishing that at this level you can still be fooled for metallic paint, but it's an old favourite of the car manufacturers, and they find it difficult to let this one go.

● **Self-levelling suspension**, £300. Fitted to very few cars as standard equipment, this suspension ensures that the car stays on an even keel when heavily loaded. Ideal for caravanners.

● **Sunroof**, £400 to £600. Many would consider this an essential feature, and it is usual for only the cheapest models to go without. Many are now electrically operated.

● **Telephone**, £1,000 to £1,500. Leasing technical advances make today's best buy look dated tomorrow. Hands-free systems are preferable.



"In 10,000 miles, my Croma never stopped involuntarily, was never off the road for more than routine servicing and never failed to start. You can't do much better than that."

ERIC DYMCK, SUNDAY TIMES

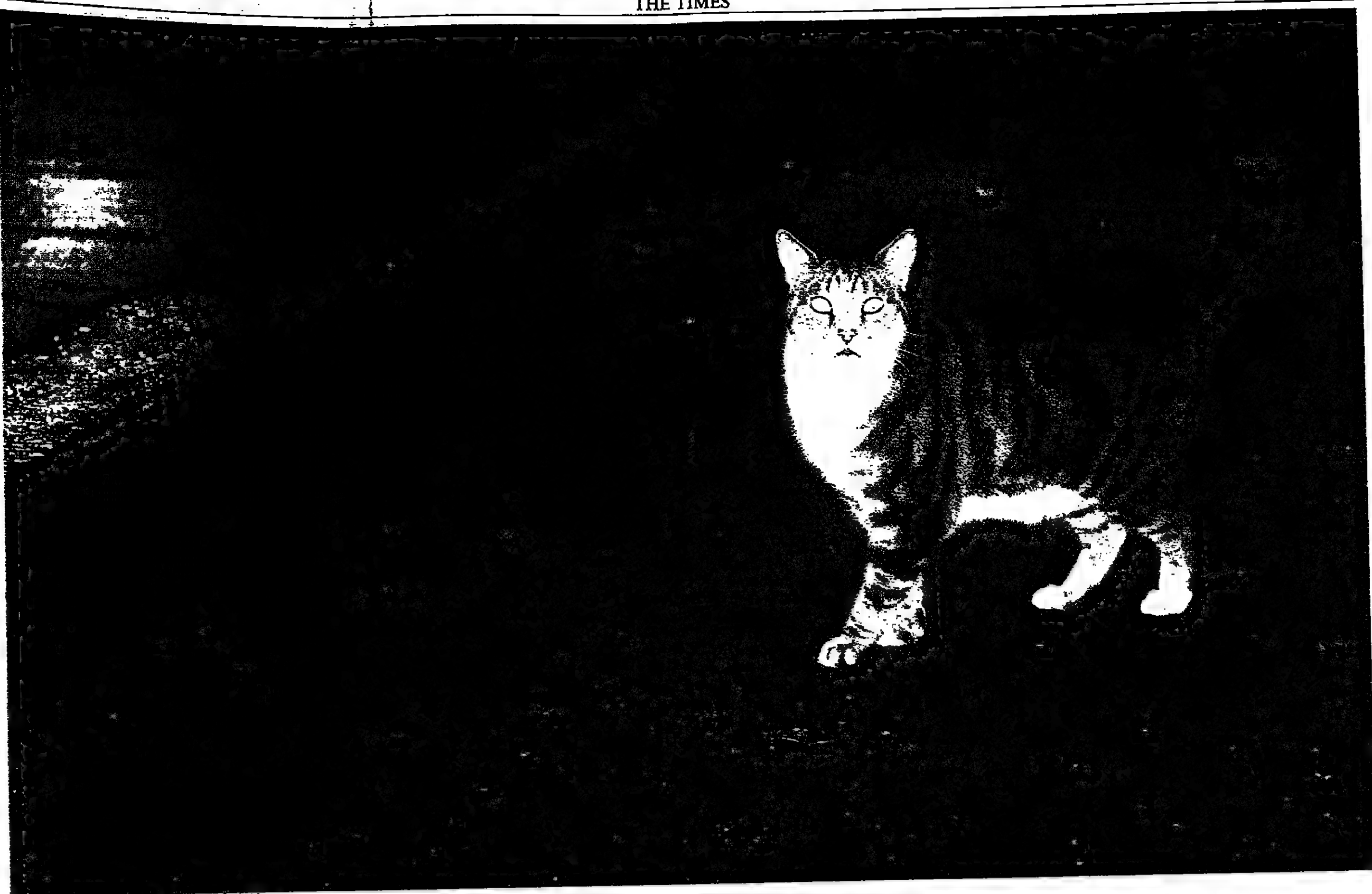
THANKS, ERIC. TAKE THE REST OF THE NIGHT OFF.

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What do you do? In some cars, you could be in trouble.

Swerve and you run the risk of fishtailing or spinning. Slam on the brakes and you could well veer off the road or worse, into oncoming traffic.

Your only option then is to pray.

At Vauxhall, we know only too well that situations like this happen all too often.

Heaven forbid it should happen to you. But if it does, your prayers would have more chance of being answered if you were driving a Carlton.

Our faith in the Carlton is based upon something no other car has. We call it 'Advanced Chassis Technology', or ACT.

ACT is a system designed to work hardest when you really need it.

In an emergency, it will help bring your car to a controlled and straight halt.

Should you need to swerve, the system will help stabilise your car, which in turn will help you to stay in control.

When Autocar put it to the test they simply described it as 'truly remarkable'.

However, our concern for safety doesn't stop there.

Every Carlton is equipped with an electric headlamp levelling system, which means that however much weight you have in the back of the car, your view of the road ahead will remain the same.

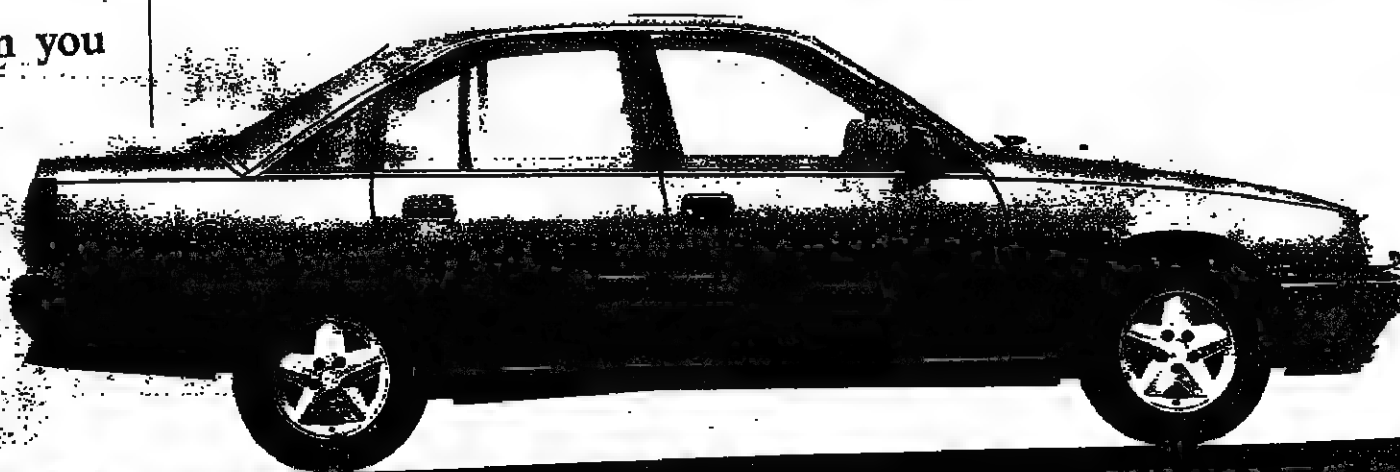
The front seats are orthopaedically designed and what's more, every model also comes with height adjustable seat belts.

Features like this helped the Carlton gain the accolade of Car of the Year 1987. That's all very well for us.

What's more important for you is the knowledge that when you drive a Carlton you're driving a car that's engineered with your safety very much in mind.

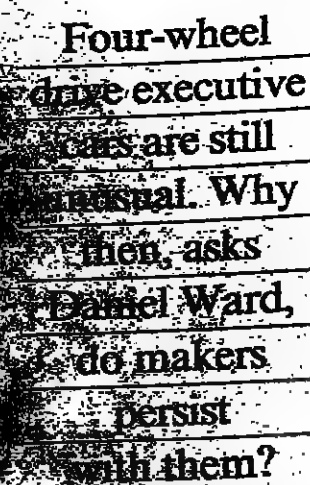
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Sales of four-wheel drive cars with extreme towing capacity to snow-belt areas in the last few years have been phenomenal. Manufacturers are making the "four-wheel" name of a four-wheel drive executive model smarter up the rest of the range. The car-makers who have gone to the trouble of developing these models at great expense show no sign of abandoning them in the face of lofty sales figures.

One reason for this demand in the executive sector

has been excluded from the category, the Sierra is the bestselling four-car model in the company's line. In 1987, sales would have been 10,000 units, but for the 1988 model year alone. Sales of the 2.8-litre V6 Sierra 2.8i in 1987 were 12,400, up from 8,806 in 1986. The demand for the 2.8-litre V6 is less than a fraction of this.

There has been slow to catch the Sierra with the 2.8-litre V6 engine. In 1987, the 2.8-litre V6 replaced the 2.8-litre V6 engine a year ago



VOTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF CAR FLEET OPERATORS



Some cars justify executive status on price alone, chosen by drivers who are most interested in a compact, fast car able to cope in all conditions.

model paid a premium of almost £4,000 for four-wheel drive, compared with five per cent of...100 owners.

There are some cars that justify executive status on price alone, chosen by drivers more interested in a compact, fast car able to top speed footedly in all conditions. An recent 90 quattro (£19,998) and the BMW 325X (£19,445 for the four-door model) fall firmly into this category, where the badge on the grille and sporting image are more important than acres of sheet metal.

of sheer threat. The four-wheel drive provides traction with much-needed traction on wet roads, yet detracts from the car's attributes on a dry road. The similarly priced Audi lacks the fine BMW six-cylinder engine yet the latest Torsen center differential has made the German fwd system one of the best available.

It offers all the expected advantages in the wet and with better handling in the snow, and none of the

Range Rover emerges as the simple yet effective alternative to the pure road cars. Its transmission offers permanent four-wheel drive yet the torque is divided between the front and rear axles simply 50/50 and the lock for the center differential has to be engaged manually. As the standard highway it is becoming increasingly more civilized, quieter and with a better ride. Off-road, the Solihull machine has no peers.

If there is an unsung hero in this sector then the Ford Sierra 4x4 unquestionably earns the description. If the much more versatile Range



At the bottom end of the price range: the workman-like Subaru turbo-charged 1.8 GLSE

هكذا من الامم

FOCUS

EXECUTIVE CARS/4

The thieves should make you alarmed

Buying an executive car is one thing, says Peter Burgess; keeping it, is another

Auto crime is on an upward trajectory, fuelled by the twin temptations of cars being left with expensive belongings inside, and an apparently strong market of unsuspecting buyers wanting to jump the long waiting list for the most desirable models. Many thefts can be put down to opportunism. The Metropolitan Police says a lot of drivers still leave their cars unlocked, even with keys in the ignition. This problem, plus that of parking in high-crime areas can be overcome, in many cases, with some thought by the driver.

But with 100,000 cars a year being stolen in London alone, and many more having items stolen from them, simple care alone will not rule out the risk of your car being stolen or robbed.

There are two ways to cut down the risks: buy a more secure car or have a security system fitted.

Executive cars are prime targets for villains. Consequently they have been the first to receive the vehicle manufacturers' attentions. Probably the most significant advance has been in door locks. But though Rolls-Royce has long fitted Yale locks to its cars, and Ford is to be commended for its vanly improved high-security Chubb locks on the Granada and Sierra, it is deadlocks which are the biggest step forward.

The weakness of the Ford system is that though it makes lock-picking much more difficult, it does little to prevent other well-ried methods of opening a locked car.

The deadlock, fitted to the latest BMWs and Vauxhalls Carlton and Senator, effectively seals the doors. Even by breaking a window and reaching inside, a thief cannot open the door unless the deadlock has been released with the key.

The Home Office, in conjunction with the car manufacturers, has formulated other proposals for improving security. Security glazing to the windows, better door locks and linkages, and alternative methods of installing stereos and telephones will all appear soon.

Executive cars are prime targets for villains

Central door locking has also come under their eye. Though a good way of ensuring that when the driver locks his door all the others are locked at the same time, there has been at least one executive car for which central locking proved its downfall. Because the system is designed to unlock all the doors should the car be in an accident, thieves found that a sharp tap to a parked car with another would release all the locks.

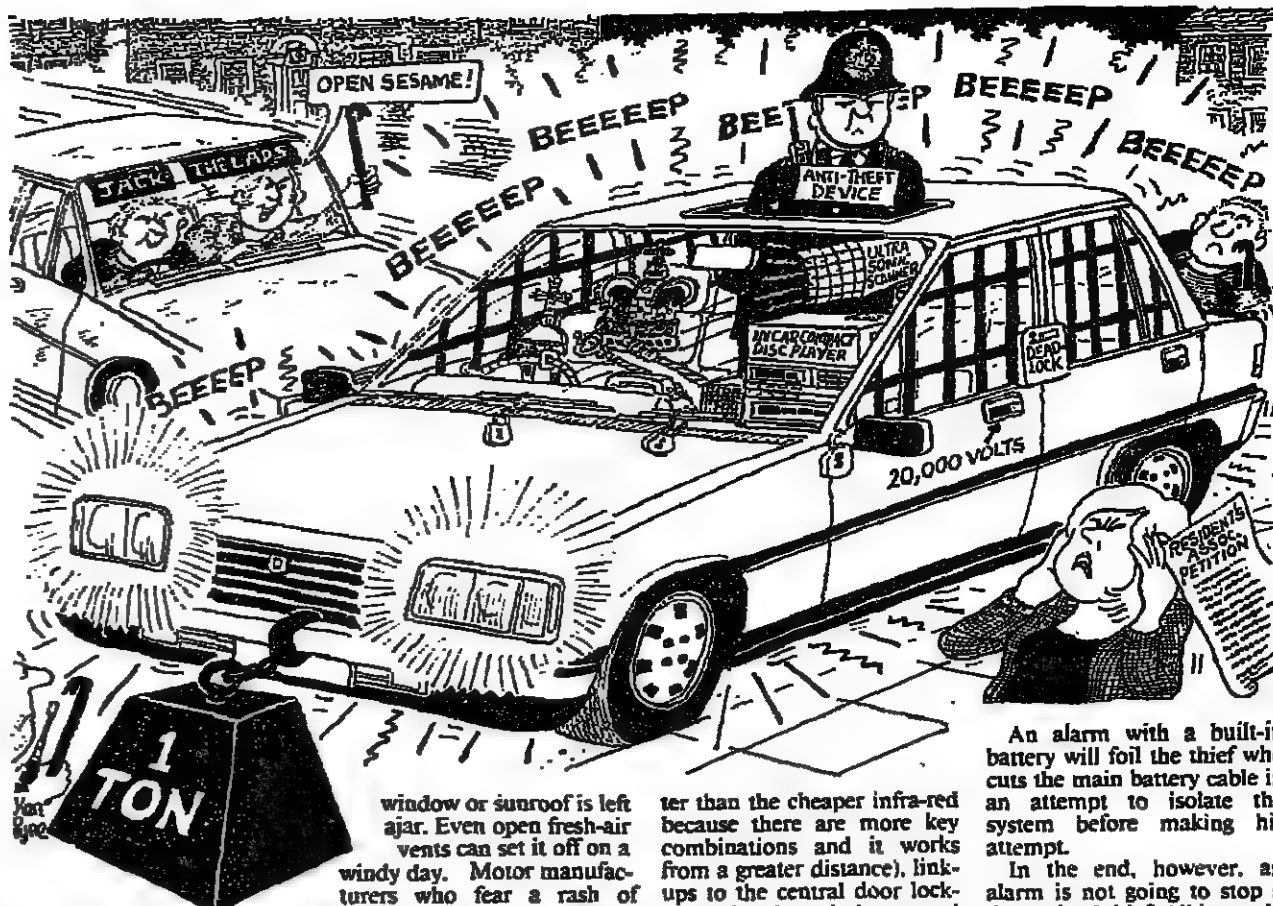
Locks apart, the emphasis is

improving what little security already exists in executive cars with an alarm system. At present, few cars — BMW, Porsche and Rolls-Royce — have had an alarm incorporated at the design stage.

Though every other car manufacturer can offer an approved alarm on a new car, it will almost certainly be a bought-in component from one of the big alarm manufacturers (largely Italian), to be fitted by your local dealer.

An alarm approved by the dealer will, one hopes, have been checked out by the car manufacturer for suitability for your particular car. This means that the risk of false alarming should have been minimized by attention to the positioning of all the electronic units.

The other side of the coin is that the motor industry tends to be fairly conservative in its offerings. For example, few ultrasonic scanners are incorporated in the "approved" alarms, yet these are relatively commonplace in the aftermarket and are now finding their way into £50 DIY alarms



in high-street accessory shops.

The problem is that unless the customer is briefed on their function, the scanner can be a nuisance. It works by sounding the alarm when the air is disturbed inside the car, and naturally enough, the siren will be triggered if a

window or sunroof is left ajar. Even open fresh-air vents can set it off on a windy day. Motor manufacturers who fear a rash of customer complaints about false alarms hesitate to step in too far at one go.

For owners who want the latest in alarm technology, few have any other choice than the accessory route.

The main features to look out for are ultrasonics, radio remote control alarming (bet-

ter than the cheaper infra-red because there are more key combinations and it works from a greater distance), linking up to the central door locking, electric windows and sunroof (which close when the alarm is set), and level detection (sensing when the car is jacked up and someone is after your wheels).

An accessory protection loop can be linked through targets such as the stereo, spotlights and even the badge.

An alarm with a built-in battery will foil the thief who cuts the main battery cable in an attempt to isolate the system before making his attempt.

In the end, however, an alarm is not going to stop a determined thief. All it can do is to warn those within earshot and perhaps frighten the criminal off.

Where you park, and how careful you are about locking the car, are still the main criteria that determine whether your car is still there when you get back.

New line in chat is costing less

If current estimates are maintained, there will be more than half a million mobile phones in use by the middle of next year. Since the GPO (as it was then) gave up its communications monopoly in 1985, the need to stay in touch on the move has spread at such a rate that the leading network is already worth more than £2 billion.

With the extra business, now generating over £2 million per week in retail turnover, prices have been tumbling. A car phone that two years ago cost more than £1,000 is now available for under £400. Even the handy pocket phone, is down from £2,500 to £650.

After the various radio-paging systems, which can carry messages one way only, and short-range, dedicated, two-way radio, car phones are the cheapest way for businessmen and decision-makers to stay in contact with customers, clients and the secretariat of any management system.

A Marplan survey showed that 60 per cent of business people who spend time away from their desks believed they needed to be contacted during that time. But only four per cent of the working population has access to any form of communication on the move.

Cellular radio phones use hundreds of inter-active trans-

mission channels.

Though they both use the same kind of equipment, there is a £60 to £65 connection charge to the chosen system and a monthly subscription of £25 to consider in addition to the hardware and installation costs. Only the more expensive sets can access the additional 400 ETACS channels essential in high congestion areas such as central London.

Both networks already reach about 90 per cent of the British population, although there are large parts of Scotland, Wales, the West Country, and the North-West where there are no transmitters and hence no service. If you are not satisfied with the coverage, BT want a year's notice or £300 service termination fee. Rascal Vodafone require only 90 days' notice or £75 to cancel your contract.

When it comes to the choice of equipment for the car, the first basic requirement to specify is known as "hands-free" operation. This uses a small permanently installed speaker and a tiny microphone clipped behind the sun visor to avoid the dangerous practice of operating a handset on the move. Incoming calls can be answered by pressing a single button on the handset and pre-set dialling is available using three.

Almost half of the cellphone users in a recent MORI survey said they always make calls while driving and three out of four always answer an incoming call on the move. Only 12 per cent being able to ignore an incoming call, even when driving at high speed.

Notes on the proper use of carphones are now included in the Highway Code. It specifically says: "Do not use a hand-held microphone or telephone handset while your vehicle is moving, except in an emergency. You should speak only into a fixed, neck-clip, or clipped-on microphone when it would not distract your attention from the road. Do not stop on the hard shoulder of a motorway to answer a call, however urgent."

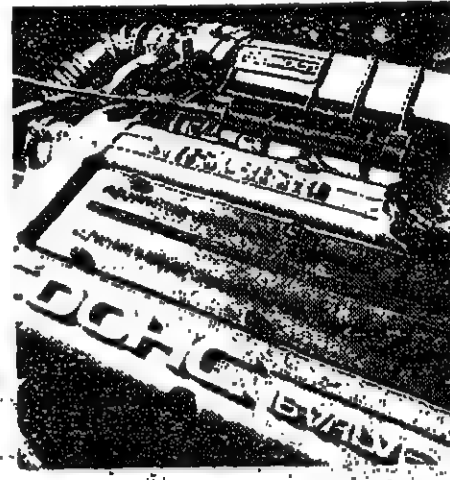
The most-overlooked point about using car phones, or any portable system, is the high cost of making calls. In normal business hours it is 25 to 35p a minute in or out of the system.

Latest technology phones are packed with practical features whose cost should be weighed carefully against the benefits provided. These include a 99-number memory store, facilities to transfer calls when the car is parked and electronic lock-out.

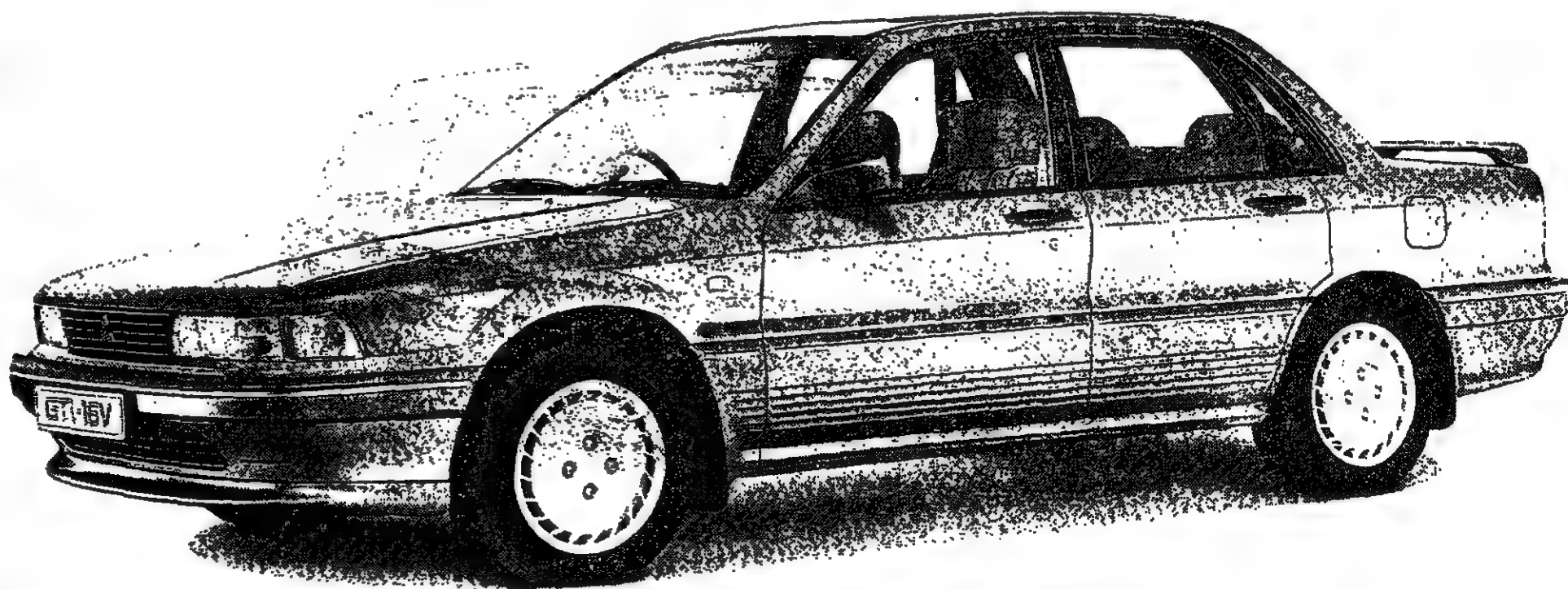
Available now, and predicted to expand rapidly in the future, is a multi-frequency acoustic system for accessing computer services through a modem link. Though any suitable portable computer or facsimile machine can theoretically be hooked up to a car phone as easily as in the office, errors are more easily introduced.

The answer is to use a dedicated in-car system such as BT's Keystream equipment that incorporates error detection and correction protocols to ensure reliable transmission throughout the network. It takes data for radio transmission via the cellphone transceiver directly.

Geoffrey Howard



It took a company that spends one million pounds a day on R&D to develop the new Mitsubishi Galant.



Every day, on average, Mitsubishi Motors spends £1 million on research and development to produce cars like the new Mitsubishi Galant.

Already "Car of the Year" in Japan for 1988, the new Galant boasts an unprecedented level of engineering sophistication and technology.

Developed from Mitsubishi's unique HSR car (the fastest 2 litre in the world) the Galant range now has the added attraction of an exciting 2 litre GTi model featuring Mitsubishi's latest 16 valve, 'Double Overhead Camshaft' engine.

The four model line-up also includes a 2 litre 'multi-point' fuel injection GLSi, as well as 1800 petrol and turbo diesel GLS versions.

Every Galant is highly equipped and includes such standard features as central door locking, power steering, heated electronic door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat and a superb stereo radio/cassette player.

On the 2 litre 'Diamond Option' models you

can also have an electric glass sun roof, alloy wheels, ABS brakes, auto cruise control and air conditioning.

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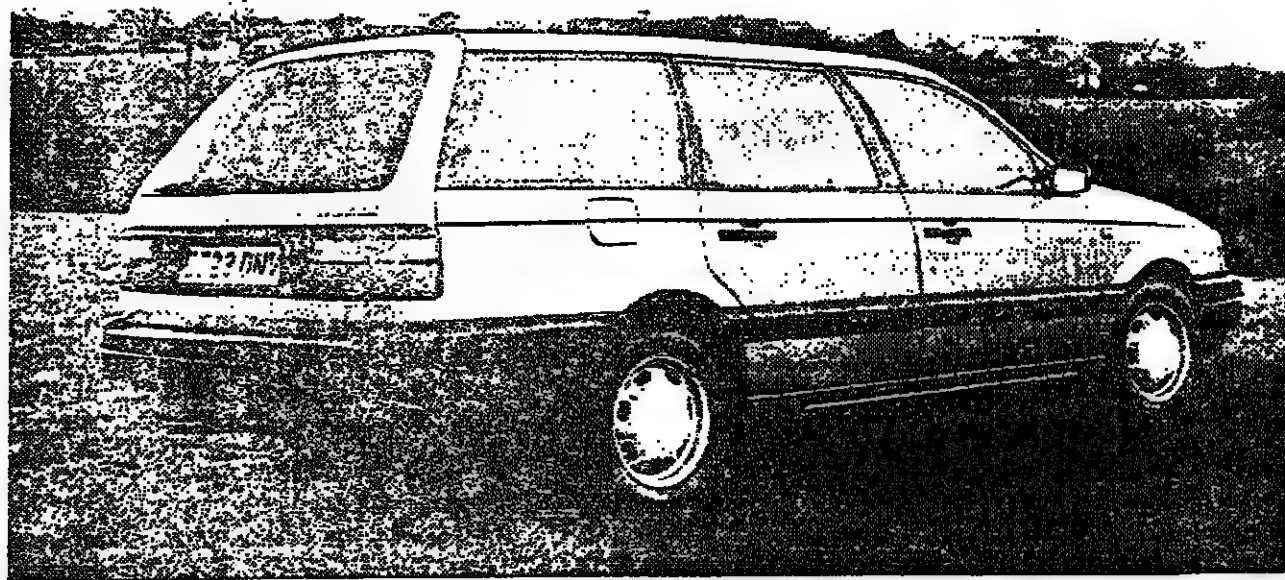
*Galant 1800 Manual £9,399. Price correct at time of going to press includes Car Tax

and VAT but excludes 'on-the-road' charges. For NATO forces Tax Free sales in Europe contact The Colt Car Company Limited, Hochstrasse 66, 4057 Bruggen, W. Germany. Tel: (030 49) 2163-7036.

EXECUTIVE CARS/5

FOCUS

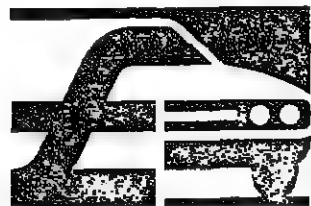
How the humble van that tried to be a family car as well shed its ungainly look to win a new desirability



VW Passat CL, left: Aerodynamically efficient, superbly built and fast — the top model GT 16V is fuel-injected. Montego Countryman Estate Limited Edition, right: good-looking and space-efficient



Ugly duckling puts on style



Stuart Birch looks at a type of vehicle that has traded a workaday image for one that now means prestige

The difficulties of making silk purses from sow's ears are indisputable. But there is an automotive parallel that proves it is possible. The estate car was once an ungainly, tubby and often ugly beast — in many instances no more than a van with side windows for mostly menial tasks: a mere fetcher and carrier.

But in the late-1950s and early-1960s, it began to edge up-market. It was still used as a practical load-carrier, but there was an increasing hint of subtlety about it; a greater identity with equivalent sa-

loons and it became popular with fleet users as transport for reps. Quite simply, it was becoming stylish.

When Volvo revealed an estate-car version of the angular 144 series in the late 1960s, it possessed not only style but a new element of image. Since then the estate car's position in the British market — it takes about 8 per cent overall — has been clearly delineated: at one level it is an attractive, comfortable, functional vehicle with the creature comforts expected of family saloons; at the other it has become a luxurious, often powerful and expensive executive car able to carry off its dual purpose as lightly as the paraphernalia for a ski-ing holiday.

The luxury estate car makes a statement, indicating — in fact or fiction — successful business achievement and often vigorous leisure interests, each allied to discerning standards. Now, an increasing number of executives are choosing up-market estate cars in preference to saloons and hatchbacks.

Volvo estate cars, the square-cut 700 series or ageing 200 series, take an enormous slice of the large estate-car market — 49.8 per cent in 1987 and 53 per cent so far this year, according to the company's figures based on Society

of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' statistics.

Despite a basic design that goes back more than 20 years, the 200 series — starting at £10,950 — accounted for more than 20 per cent of large estate-car sales last year, says Volvo. The car is sturdy and unashamedly old-fashioned but light and easy to drive. Production could go on until 1995. But it is the newer 740 and still further up-market 760 models that project the Volvo executive estate-car image.

They are big cars but surprisingly agile. Engine range includes a 2.8-litre, fuel-injected V6 and turbocharged diesel and petrol units. The turbocharged petrol-engine 700 series cars are quick, with a 0-60 mph time of about 7.5 seconds — belying Volvo's once-stodgy image.

The choice of executive estate cars is wide. The Range Rover, with permanent four-wheel drive and the ability to haul itself across deserts or pull a pony trailer out of the mire at a gymkhana is a special sort of executive estate car — really in the off-road vehicle class.

Yet only a minority of its owners ever show their Range Rovers much more than a deep puddle and the top model, the £27,349 Vogue SE with soft leather seats, electric

tilt-and-slide sunroof, air-conditioning and automatic transmission is very much an executive estate. The Range Rover Turbo Diesel Vogue is a competitive £22,446.

Luxury and quality the envy of most other manufacturers are the hallmarks of the superb Mercedes-Benz W124 T-series estates.

They are object lessons in combining speed, comfort and carrying capacity. The range starts with the 1,997 cc 200T at £17,100. It has the same luggage space area as larger-engined cars in the range: 20.9 cu ft with the divided rear seats in place. A third row of rearward-facing seats is an option.

The top Mercedes estate, the 134 mph 300TE, is available with four-wheel drive. Called 4Matic, it is a "thinking" system.

Normally the car operates in two-wheel drive, but the speed of each wheel is monitored and if there is a differential of 1.25 mph between any of them four-wheel drive comes into operation. Price of the 300TE with 4Matic is £31,650; £25,750 without it.

Audi, with its Avant quattro models, uses permanent four-wheel drive. In 100 or 200 form, it has styling that is halfway between hatchback and estate. Audi is making a

bid to move further up-market and is paying great attention to quality.

The Avant, satisfying to drive quickly, is available with either two or four wheel drive in 100 form or four-wheel drive as the 200 Turbo. Current price range is £13,803 to £30,651. Interior decor of the 100 is bland.

Vauxhall's Carlton 2.0i CD Estate at £14,933 is well-equipped with cruise control, electric sunroof and electrically heated windscreen washers, is highly aerodynamic and space-efficient with over 65 cu ft available when the rear seats are lowered. Ride and road-holding are excellent. The car has good but not exciting performance and bridges both estate car market sectors.

So does Ford's Sierra 2.8i Ghia Estate with four wheel drive and all mod cons. This year the car is expected to gain a 2.9-litre engine to bring it into line with Ford's other six-cylinder models.

Austin Rover offers the £12,900 Montego Vanden Plas in the medium-size executive estate range. Good-looking, handy and space-efficient, it has self-levelling suspension and an extra row of rear-facing child seats. There is 57.2 cu ft of space with the rear seat folded.

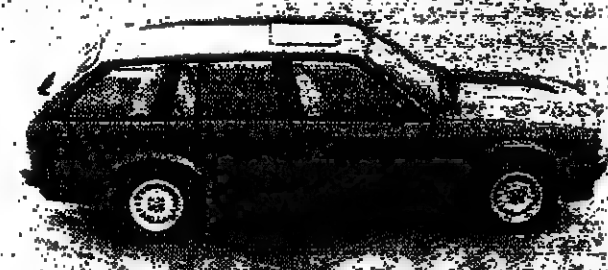
Among the well-established estates are the Peugeot 505: spacious, very comfortable, with a choice of petrol or diesel engines, and the big Citroën CX Safari and Familiale.

The latter will take eight adults plus some luggage. Ride is superb, road-holding startlingly good, but the car is undeniably idiosyncratic. The big CX is in the autumn of its production life but remains a great car.

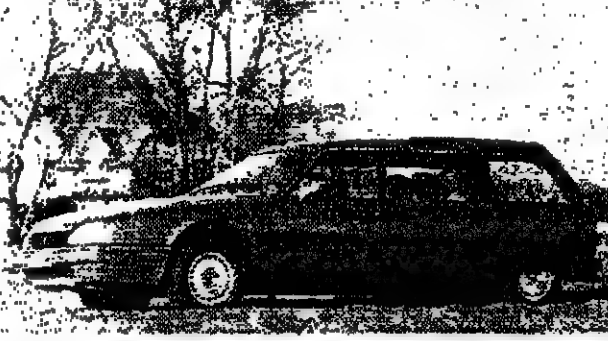
Volkswagen and BMW each has a new executive estate. The VW Passat estate is generally very impressive.

The top-model GT 16V (£15,885) uses a 136-bhp, 16-valve, fuel-injected engine as fitted to the hottest Golf GTI. It is aerodynamically efficient, superbly built, comfortable and rapid.

For the BMW 325i Touring, the designation "estate car" is something of a misnomer. It is more a functional sporting coupe despite its five doors — a vehicle of image which says that its user is successful, young (ish), well-heeled, has an eye for quality and is in a hurry. It costs £18,595 but owners will have to pay for extras if that image is not to be tarnished by the sight of window-winders being operated manually.



BMW's new 133-mph 325i Touring: A sports car or estate?



Citroën CX 25RI Familiale: In autumn of production life



Peugeot 505 GTI family estate: spacious and comfortable

Streets ahead of leasing, say the contract hirers

There are three million company cars on Britain's roads and about a third of them — worth more than £8 billion — are replaced each year.

Some 265,000 companies operate motor vehicle fleets, but not all of those firms will have bought their vehicles outright, and selecting from among the options available makes vehicle fleet financing the subject of major business decision-making.

Trevor Jones, managing director of Autolease, says: "Many fleet operators have expressed a certain amount of confusion as to the financial structure of some leasing and contract hire schemes."

"This confusion has been aggravated by the emergence of schemes — essentially hire purchase or credit sale — designed to assist companies running executive class vehicles who are adversely affected by the current taxation regulations."

The choices confronting executives responsible for running vehicle fleets may be classified as outright purchase from company funds or from borrowed funds, hire purchase, finance lease or contract hire.

According to the current *Monk's Guide to Company Car Policy*, the number of companies buying their own cars and the number using finance leases both fell by 6 per cent last year, and the number of companies using contract hire increased by 11 per cent.

The actual number of vehicles purchased outright by companies fell by 9 per cent, while there was a 7 per cent rise in the number of vehicles on contract hire and a rise of 2 per cent in the numbers finance leased.

Makrotest Research says that contract hire is becoming more popular and its share of the market is increasing. In 1983, 388,000 vehicles were under contract hire; this year the figure is tipped to exceed 580,000. This growth has been at the expense of outright purchase.

With outright purchase, the company owns the cars and shows them as assets in the annual accounts, with depreciation charged on a yearly basis. This method has two major disadvantages. First, vehicle depreciation, and second, the fact that valuable capital is tied up.

"Unless a company is cash-rich, or unable to recover VAT in full, it is difficult to think of a good reason to buy vehicles outright," says Phillip Ashworth, executive director (finance) of Lex Vehicle Leasing, Britain's largest specialist contract hire company, with 27,500 contracts.

Hire purchase is simply a form of delayed payment following a large cash deposit. At the end of the agreed payment

period, the car belongs to the company.

Interest rates are high and the resale of cars is subject to the state of the market.

Hire purchase, like outright purchase, carries no special tax advantages other than the maximum annual capital allowance of £2,000 permitted by the Inland Revenue.

Some in the industry believe that finance leasing will be dead within three years. Tax incentives boosted leasing during the 1970s, but subsequent budgets have eroded the advantages. Today, there are few tax benefits, except that lease payments on cars costing less than

£8,000 may be claimed against corporation tax. This is, however, a marginal attraction.

The starting point for an executive car in Britain now is at least £11,000, according to Hans Tauscher, managing director of Mercedes-Benz UK.

Leasing payments are made over a mutually agreed period and are subject to fluctuations in interest rates. They are structured to include the payment of a final "balloon" or residual payment, which is planned to cover the balance of the cost of the car.

Under a finance lease the vehicle is never owned by the lessee, who merely pays a rental for its use.

Outright purchase, hire purchase or leasing all leave the operator with the problems of running the vehicle fleet.

Contract hire, which, according to Makrotest Research, is the choice of approximately 19 per cent of all companies operating fleets of vehicles, eases the problems of running and administration and eliminates problems connected with purchasing and resale.

Unpredictable expenses can be covered by a fixed monthly payment, which will also meet routine servicing, maintenance, tyres, batteries, road tax, membership of a motoring organization, and the provision of a loan car if the user's vehicle is off the road.

The only outstanding costs are for petrol and insurance.

With a full maintenance contract, the contract hire company will look after the running of a vehicle fleet. The hirer's responsibilities are limited to booking in vehicles for servicing, and, of course, meeting the monthly payment.

The payment is fixed for the life of the contract and is not subject to movements in interest rates. The vehicle remains the property of the contract hire company which has responsibility for its final sale.

Owners of existing fleets may also take advantage of "sale and hire back" schemes whereby the contract hire company buys the fleet and then contract hires it back, giving the operating company an injection of capital.

"It is imperative that when vehicle fleet users consider projects which involve cash flows over a period of time, they should ensure that the true value of money — the discounted cash flow — is taken into account to obtain realistic comparisons of the various options," says Lex's Phillip Ashworth.

"From the administration point of view, the larger the fleet the more dramatic the cost savings enjoyed, but there is little doubt that contract hire is the most cost-effective form of vehicle financing from a single car to the largest fleet," he adds.

These thoughts are echoed by Andrew Jones, of Ernst and Whinney, the accountants, in an independent report on the financing of company vehicles: "The options appear broadly competitive in financial terms, with contract hire the overall leader by a noticeable margin."

"It should, in addition, be remembered that contract hire offers two major financial benefits which outright purchase and financial leasing cannot offer: "Contract hire is the least-risk option in that all the risk-owning 'vehicles' (unknown maintenance costs, fluctuating residual values, etc) are offload to a third party."

"Contract hire is the only option of the three which allows commercial vehicles to be financed off balance sheet."

Mr Jones adds: "Contract hire offers a number of operational advantages, not least a reduction in the level of administrative headaches and uncertainties in running a commercial vehicle fleet."

Anthony Cox

c.c. Computers and Communications

To NEC it's a telephone box.

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EDUCATION

All change in the boroughs

Labour councillors in London boroughs are now feverishly planning for the day only two years hence when they will take over responsibility for the capital's education services.

Up until a month ago, it would have been considered treason for any of them to act openly on the assumption that they would be running the service, and that the largest English education authority, the Inner London Education Authority, would be abolished.

It was only when it became clear that there would be no revolt in the House of Lords against the plan — originally the subject of an amendment to the Government's Education Reform Bill, tabled by the unlikely alliance of Mr Norman Tebbit and Mr Michael Heseltine, that leaders of the eight Labour controlled councils officially set their minds to the task.

Of course, some of them have been privately anxious to take on the task for years. In Islington, such a move was being talked about a decade ago.

But, in public, it was only the three Conservative controlled councils — Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Wandsworth (all of whom wanted to opt out of the ILEA under the Government's original plan) — who had taken on advisers to help them plan an education

service. Liberal controlled Tower Hamlets was also examining the options. So just how ready are the boroughs for their responsibility — bearing in mind they now have only eight months to draw up a comprehensive development plan for Education Secretary Mr Kenneth Baker's approval?

Obviously, the Government is worried about their readiness — it has tabled amendments to the Hazelton/Tebbit plan, requiring the councils not only to have their most senior appointments vetted by the Secretary of State but also the shortlist for those jobs, also.

But talk to Mrs Margaret Hodge, the Labour leader of Islington Council, who also chairs the Association of London Authorities — on which all eight are represented, and you will find her now relishing the task ahead. "We must make a virtue of necessity," she said.

The boroughs are being offered education support grants — whereby they receive cash aid from the Government for specific projects — 30 appoint

advisers.

So far, however, few authorities have applied for a share of the £3 million available in this financial year. According to the survey of the authorities in last week's *Times Educational Supplement*, Camden and Lambeth had been notably slow in knocking down to the job.

However, a joint committee comprising representatives of all the Labour

London's boroughs are

finally coming to terms

with the abolition of the

Inner London Education

Authority. Richard

Garner considers the

full implications of

this new departure

boroughs and the ILEA has been set up. What has been markedly lacking, though, is any sign of co-operation between authorities of a different political hue.

Talks will have to start soon between the ILEA and the London Boroughs Association — which represents the Conservative and Liberal authorities — because one of the thorniest questions to be tackled is over what happens to education institutions which straddle borough boundaries.

An example of this is Hackney College. While most of its buildings are in the borough of Hackney, there is a site at Poplar in Tower Hamlets. A blueprint for the future is being prepared by the ILEA — which apparently would be favoured by councillors in Tower Hamlets — envisaging a new, prestigious college being established on the Poplar site with the aid of cash from the London Docklands Development Corporation.

However, in many cases, the answer may not fall into place so easily — most of the ILEA's adult institutes cross boundaries, for instance, and some boroughs have more special schools than others (Islington has five).

Mrs Hodge, who as leader of the ILEA is likely to be a key figure in any talks — is firmly of the opinion that statutory or voluntary joint authorities will not provide the answer to running the service.

"They're very difficult to control and establish their own set of priorities," she said. "For instance, the waste authorities now have (following the abolition of the Greater London Council). Last year Islington wanted to cut its budget by 8 per cent. The waste authority came in with an increase of around 30 per cent. It made a nonsense of our own internal priorities."

"We should look at alternative ways of continuing co-operation. For instance, on special schools — we have five special schools in Islington and there's no reason why Islington can't run them."

"What is needed is co-operation — from the Tories as well — and a fair method of setting charges for authorities to recoup what they have spent."

Mrs Hodge's solution is very similar to the thinking of Mr. Baker himself —

outlined in a consultative document showing the boroughs the preparation they must make for taking over control.

But there is a major difficulty. Under the present arrangements, the boroughs do not themselves have the power to fix their own recruitment costs.

They must have the blessing of the Secretary of State, and according to Mr David Riggs, the ILEA's finance director, are set at too low a level to make it economic for the authority providing the education facility.

A glimpse at the figures for last year appears to confirm this. The charge for sending a child to an inner London primary school from elsewhere was £1,260, compared with £1,120 for the rest of England and Wales. The cost of living indicators for living in London and the South East show the gap is far greater than the 10 per cent acknowledged here.

Of course, there are bound to be negotiations over the figures and it may well be that the Department of Education and Science would not be averse to a more economic charge being set.

With the break up of the ILEA, there are bound to be far more cases of children — and indeed, of college students — crossing borough boundaries to get to their place of study.

Mrs Hodge estimates about 40 per cent

Finance will be one of the most difficult issues to solve

of Islington's school population go outside of the borough for their education — and figures also show a similar number of pupils come in from elsewhere to Islington as go out.

The other major difficulty facing the inner London boroughs — particularly the Labour controlled ones — is that of finance. Many of them are at present rate capped and as yet the government has given no firm indication as to what level of cash aid they can expect to receive when they start to run the service.

In addition, the date for the transfer is the same as that for the introduction of the poll tax. There is therefore much work to be done before next February — the date when borough development plans have to be before Mr Baker for approval.

Islington is anxious to improve nursery education — believing that now responsibility for education and social services will rest with the same authority in inner London, it should be possible to provide a more cohesive service. One possibility being talked about is providing nursery education on a 48 week basis during the year rather than shutting down during the school holidays.

But many of the other boroughs are not far off the starting block. Greenwich, for instance, is having the first meeting of its new committee taking responsibility for education later this week.

EDUCATIONAL

POSTS

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AUSTRALIA

Fax No. (003) 265223

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Inquiries: Ms Sharmar Pretty, Co-ordinator of Studies, phone: Sydney (02) 230 1223. Pos No. 88/33.

Applications close 5 August, 1988 with the Recruitment Officer, Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs, Level 14, ADC House, 189-193 Kent Street, Sydney 2000, Australia.

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Applicants should submit five copies of research works - published or unpublished - which they wish to be considered in connection with their application, and six copies of a list of all their works along with information about where these have been published. The research works should be sent to the University of Bergen no later than one month after the closing date for applications. Subject to notification along with the submission of other works, as yet unpublished research works may be submitted up to three months after the closing date for applications.

Reference is made to "The rules of procedure for the appointment of professors to the University of Bergen".

A description of the position may be obtained upon request to the Secretary, Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen, P.O. Box 25, N-5027 Bergen, Norway.

Women are encouraged to apply. Should the evaluation committee find several applicants to be equally well qualified for the position, the University Senate will adhere to the regulations in the University of Bergen Equal Employment Opportunities agreement.

Applications with curriculum vitae and information about academic qualifications and previous experience, as well as a list of works to be considered, should be addressed to H.M. The King, and sent to the above address before Sept 15, 1988.

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Information on application procedure and further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, 3168, Australia, or the Secretary, Clinical Academic Staff, Commonwealth Universities (Appts), 35 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF.

Applications should reach the Registrar not later than 9 September 1988. Council reserves the right to make no appointment or to appoint by invitation at any stage.

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Further details may be obtained from the Personnel Office, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. (Tel. 0602 484846 Ext. 3355). Applications giving names and addresses of three referees and full curriculum vitae should be sent by the 31st July 1988. Ref No. 1169.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Department of English Studies

Modern English Language Research Group

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Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, the University, Leeds, LS2 9JT, quoting reference 31/54. Applications (two copies) giving details of age, qualifications and experience and naming three referees, should reach the Registrar no later than 23 September 1988. Applicants from overseas may apply in the first instance by cable, telex (550473 UNLDS B) or fax (0113) 275 55817, naming three referees, preferably in the United Kingdom.

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Further details may be obtained from the Master, University College, The Castle, Durham DH1 3RW. Applications, including the names of three referees, should be sent to the Master, University College not later than 5th August 1988.

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Prospective applicants must obtain further particulars and application forms from the Registrar, The Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia. Fax (062) 490054, or from the Appointments Officer, Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF. Applications close on 1 October 1988.

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Please apply to The Chaplain, Broomwood Hall School, 74, Nightingale Lane, London SW12 8NN. Tel: 01-473 1616.

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, HOLLYDALE RD, NUNHEAD, SE15 2EB (11 to 16)

Italian and French Teacher (MFG) required for September 1988 to work in the faculty of Language and Literature which includes the departments of English and Modern Languages. A practising Catholic is preferred.

Application forms available from the School, closing date 22nd of July. Headteacher Mr E. Tope. Tel: 01 639 0106

POLYTECHNIC

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer

(2 posts)

IN MANUFACTURING

Ref. A622/88

Temporary Lecturer/Senior Lecturer (3 posts)

IN MANUFACTURING

Ref. A623/88

Temporary Lecturer/Senior Lecturer (2 posts)

IN THERMODYNAMICS

Ref. A623/88

DEPARTMENT OF COMBINED ENGINEERING

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer

(2 posts)

IN MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS AND ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONIC AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Ref. A621/88

Salary £10,071-£15,369/£15,369-£18,549

Candidates for all the above posts should have a good honours degree in a relevant discipline together with industrial and/or research experience.

The posts are available from 1 September 1988.

Details and application form available from Personnel Officer. (Please enclose a large self-addressed envelope). Telephone 038392 or 038615. Closing date Friday 15 July 1988.

We welcome applications from men and women regardless of disability race or marital status.

Coventry Polytechnic

Prory Street

Coventry CV1 5PB

Tel: (0203) 24166

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Required as soon as possible

SCHOOL BURSAR

THE CONVENT OF THE NATIVITY SCHOOL SITTINGBOURNE KENT

An Independent Roman Catholic School for girls & mixed infants

Pupils aged 4-18

Approximately 300 on roll

Salary: by negotiation

Applicants should have relevant experience and suitable professional qualifications, preferably Chartered Accountant, Secretary or similar status.

Sittingbourne is a rapidly growing town situated close to the North Downs and within easy reach of London and the Channel ports.

The recently established Board of Governors believe that there are excellent opportunities for the successful applicant to participate in the development and expansion of the school and its facilities.

A full job description is available from:

The Chairman of the Governors c/o 32 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2TA. Tel: 01 637 0458

Letters of application accompanied by a full CV and the names of two referees should be sent to the Chairman of the Governors, marked "SB Confidential" to reach the above address by 1st September 1988.

GRANTON HOUSE

(School for young ladies)

PRINCIPAL

(Sept 87/Jun 88)

We are opening a new school (boarding and day) and are seeking a very special person who is looking for the type of challenge any new project of this kind will bring, to help us forward into the future. Languages and social standing will be our young ladies main attributes (flourishing in mid 1982, we will be a European School). Therefore require a Principal who will sympathise with our needs.

Granton House is a superb listed building, nestled in the Annan Hills. There will be lots of work, excellent potential and rewards for the right person.

PLEASE APPLY TO:

Mrs. C.J. Volland

Granton House

Beach Grove, Moffat

Tel: 0683 21153

MILTON ABBEY SCHOOL

285 boys all boarders

Required for September 1988 a teacher of French and Spanish up to A-level. Would particularly suit a young Graduate eager to play a full part in helping with games and other aspects of school life. This could be either a permanent or a temporary appointment. Own Salary Scale (Baker plus); single accommodation available.

Apply in writing with full c.v. including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees, or telephone The Headmaster, Milton Abbey School, Blanford Forum, Dorset DT11 0BZ (Tel 0258 880484).

BROOMWOOD HALL SCHOOL

- Chaplain Common

Required for September 1988 an experienced qualified class teacher to take parallel class of 4 year olds in a Co-Educational School, within its own grounds between Chaplain and Westwood Commons.

Please apply to The Chaplain, Broomwood Hall School, 74, Nightingale Lane, London SW12 8NN. Tel: 01-473 1616.

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

HOLLYDALE RD, NUNHEAD, SE15 2EB

(11 to 16)

Italian and French Teacher (MFG) required for September 1988 to work in the faculty of Language and Literature which includes the departments of English and Modern Languages. A practising Catholic is preferred.

Application forms available from the School, closing date 22nd of July. Headteacher Mr E. Tope. Tel: 01 639 0106

The Queen's University of Belfast

CHAIR IN THE FACULTY OF LAW

Consequent on the appointment of Professor Colin Campbell to be Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham, applications are invited for a Chair in the Faculty of Law tenable from 1 January 1989 or such other date as may be agreed. Appointment to the Chair is open to a specialist in any field of legal studies. The salary will be within the professional range with eligibility for USS.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN. (Please quote ref. 85/T.1). Closing date: 31 August 1988. The University is an Equal Opportunity employer.

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

WARWICK BUSINESS SCHOOL

Lucas Professorship in Business Systems Engineering

The successful candidate will provide academic leadership in information systems, information technology, and in the development and application of systems principles to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of industry, commerce and government.

The post, which is sponsored by Lucas Industries plc, is one of a number of new academic appointments in the School arising from the continued expansion of its programmes, including the MBA and the MSc Business Management Systems.

Salary will be on the Professional scale: Min £22,380.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, quoting reference number 48/A/87/J. The closing date for applications is 31/8/88. Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Robert Dyson, (0203 523775).

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Administrative Assistant

(fixed term appointment)

Applications are invited from graduates, or those holding equivalent qualifications, for the post of Administrative Assistant in the Registrar's Department. The appointment is for a three year period.

The Administrative Assistant will be located in the International Office and the duties will primarily relate to the recruitment and welfare of overseas students.

The appointment will be made on Grade 1 (£8,675-£11,680 pa).

Further particulars and application forms, returnable not later than 31 July 1988, from the Personnel Department, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Ref No 1170. Tel 0602 484848 ext 3355.

POSTS

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Individual tuition or in small groups. Specialist tuition in Mathematics, Science, English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Latin, Greek, History, Geography, Art, Music, PE, etc.

Home visits or at our premises. Ashbourne Tutors, 12412 Kensington High St, London W8 5LQ. Tel 01 837 28211.

Young, Enthusiastic Graduates,

required for French and History teaching posts, from September, in leading London Tutorial College.

Please Ring 01-373 1209 for an application form

EFL teacher

required in Castellon, Spain. Contract October 1988 - June 1989, accommodation available.

Apply to Mrs. Benyon, The Flamingo Hotel, Enys Rd, Eastbourne.

Change in law sufficient to allow re-litigation

It was sufficient to decide whether in some circumstances a change in the law could constitute further material which was relevant to considering the correctness of the earlier decision and then consider the special circumstances of the case to see whether justice required the point to be reopened.

In his Lordship's judgment the first decision was capable of being the law within the exception to issue estoppel. The yardstick of whether issue estoppel should be held to apply was the justice to the parties. Injustice could flow as much from a subsequent change in the law as from a subsequent discovery of new facts.

In both cases the injustice, if any, was caused by the action being held to have right which in fact he did not possess. There was therefore no reason for holding that a subsequent change in the law would never be sufficient to bring the case within the exception.

Whether or not such a case did or did not bring the case within the exception depended on the exact circumstances of each case.

The relevant facts were:

- 1 There was a continuing contractual relationship of law between the parties in which there was an issue estoppel.
- 2 Because of the peculiarities of the procedure applicable to appeals from arbitrators, unlike the ordinary case of a decision by a judge, the decision was not final.
- 3 Therefore a matter of financial importance involving

new *inter alia* as to the definition of "fair market rent," the rent under the lease had to be shown.

3 The decision whether or not to permit an appeal was the decision of Mr Justice Walton. There was no right of appeal against his refusal to certify the matter fit for appeal. The tenants took every possible step to test the decision in earlier case in the higher courts but without success. The tenants' sole grounds made out at the lowest, strongly argued that the decision of Mr Justice Walton was wrong.

These factors taken together satisfied his Lordship that there was a case in which justice required that the decision should not apply and accordingly the defendant's application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Stephenson & Wood; Freshfields.

Class II (Div 2): A C Rignan; S J T Aila;
 Davies; G C Broadfield; S Clarkso;
 J Challoner; S N Hollyhead
 Class IIB: H O Pickard; G R Tun

[illegible]

GOLF: BRITON'S STYLISH VICTORY IN SCOTTISH OPEN UNDERLINES EUROPEAN POWER IN THE WORLD GAME

Lane chooses fine time to hit crest of wave

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

Success: Barry Lane and wife, Melanie, enjoy Scottish Open win

Barry Lane unlocked the door to Open Championship week with such an impressive success at the Gleneagles Hotel on Saturday that the nation can look forward to it with heightened expectation.

By winning the Bell's Scottish Open in a canter, he left the Americans, Mark O'Meara, Fred Couples, Payne Stewart, Tom Kite and Ben Crenshaw, so far back that their prayers for golfing resurrection at Royal Lytham and St Annes from Thursday to Sunday look likely to go unanswered.

Lane's emergence strengthens the belief that European golf holds the balance of power following two successive Ryder Cup triumphs. Nick Faldo's Open Championship win and Sandy Lyle's victory at the Masters.

The only anxiety that remained within British circles was whether or not there existed among the supporting cast players capable of moving from the wings to centre stage.

Lane's final round of 68 for a 13-under-par aggregate of 271, three shots ahead of Lyle and the Span-

iard, José Rivero, who both finished with 68, too, was to provide evidence of an emerging new wave.

Lane, aged 28, is more than simply the archetypal professional with the designer look from top to toe. He has the personable manners befitting a true champion as well as the artistry with which to make his dreams come true.

Lyle, who applied additional pressure on Lane by gathering two birdies and one eagle in his last five holes on the Kings course, said: "I've been very impressed with Barry whenever I've played with him."

"He's a very natural golfer with a

good, solid swing. On top of that he can hit the one-iron further than me. He's got tremendous personality and he must be a future Ryder Cup player. He could also have an Open Championship within him."

Although he won the Equity and Law challenge over 36 holes last autumn, the Scottish Open title is the one which should mark the moment that Lane, who began his golf in a field near his Bracknell home, lit the blue touch paper on his career.

It is nothing less than he deserves. He was compelled to marry determination with ambition as he made seven journeys to the

European Tour qualifying school. Then, in 1984, he contracted a tropical disease while in Africa which left him listless for months. Melanie, Lane's vivacious wife, said: "Barry took the previous week off. He was very tired. He needs ten hours sleep each night."

Lane has risen from 157th place in the Order of Merit in 1985 to fourth this morning with £94,455. He told *The Times* at the start of this season that his prime objective in 1988 was to win a 72-hole tournament. "Of course, I want to win the Open Championship," he said. "But first, I think it would be best if I won a Tour event." His timing could not have been better.

SCOTTISH OPEN SCORES AND ORDER OF MERIT

FOURTH ROUND (British and Irish unless stated): 1. Lane, 70, 68, 66, 66, 274; 2. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 3. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 4. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 5. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 6. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 7. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 8. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 9. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 10. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 11. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 12. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 13. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 14. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 15. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 16. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 17. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 18. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 19. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 20. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 21. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 22. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 23. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 24. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 25. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 26. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 27. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 28. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 29. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 30. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 31. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 32. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 33. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 34. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 35. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 36. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 37. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 38. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 39. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 40. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 41. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 42. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 43. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 44. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 45. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 46. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 47. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 48. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 49. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 50. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 51. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 52. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 53. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 54. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 55. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 56. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 57. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 58. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 59. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 60. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 61. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 62. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 63. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 64. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 65. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 66. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 67. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 68. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 69. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 70. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 71. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 72. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 73. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 74. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 75. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 76. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 77. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 78. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 79. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 80. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 81. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 82. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 83. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 84. Stewart, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 85. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 86. Lyle, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 87. Faldo, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 88. O'Meara, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 89. Crenshaw, 69, 68, 68, 67, 273; 90. 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Hants lose their way after good start

By Tony Winkler

SOUTHAMPTON: Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Hampshire on faster scoring rate

Gloucestershire had reached their highest position in the 20-year-old Sunday League when third last year and yesterday, with a deserved victory over Hampshire, they were again rated even rain halted play, they have risen to join Middlesex and Lancashire as joint leaders in the table.

After restricting Hampshire to 157 for 5 in the 40 overs, Gloucestershire were always in front of the run rate and had scored 106 for two - Stovord 43 not out - when Hampshire's batsmen were finally succumbed after 26 overs.

Considering their insertion to bat and almost immediate loss of captain Nicholas, retired hurt, on collision with wicket-keeper Russell, Hampshire started well enough, with Terry and Robin Smith enjoying a

But in the first 20 overs (59% for 0), Gloucestershire had already challenged with five bowlers and used the full complement of their batting and bowling arms of the quintessential county side, a team in which, in fact, halved batting advance.

Smith had delighted with his late cutting to record a score of 57 and he and Terry hit 46 off the first 10 overs. But then the steady length and control of medium-paced Bainbridge sharply restricted the run rate.

Bainbridge conceded just 14 runs in his eight overs, as Terry and Smith added only a further 23 runs in their next 10 overs.

There was good first bowling by Jarvis, Alleyne and Curran in containing Hampshire to 157 for five. The home counties' most successful Sunday bats-

22 hander Turner but his innings
5 here ended with a run out for
79 five - just two runs short of
2 surpassing Derbyshire's captain
16 Barnett on leading Refuge Assurance
56 aggregate of 423.
25
5 Under the dark clouds,
1 Gloucestershire's openers
Stobold and Athey immediately

settled for the quest of quick runs in the first 20 overs. Both batsmen hit a six, but their partnership of 15 runs over the run rate was safely ahead when Athey was stumped next ball after driving Cowley for six. Thus was Parke's 150th dismissal in the Sunday League.

HAMPSTEAD

V P Terry c Jarvis b Athey	31
M C C Nicholas not out	0
D C C Athey b Terry	27
R Turner run out	5
J R Athey c Steward b Cowley	1
G C C Russell b Athey	1
S T Jefferson not out	15
N G Cowley not out	15
Total (5 wicks, 4 overs)	55
W J Pades, T W Trueman and C A Cowley did not bat.	

112, 5-131.

60-OWENIE Jarvis 10-27-71; **Greaser** 10-40-72; **Curran** 8-0-33-1; **Balebrake** 8-2-14-4; **Allyns** 10-0-32-2.

60-UCSTRESSHINE

A W Sward not out	41
C W J Athey not out	39
P Balebrake c James B Cowley	0
M K Curran not out	13
Extras (4, 4, 12, w, 1, nb, 2)	19
Total (2 wids, 26 overs)	106
P W Romena, A J Whigg, M W Allyns, T R C Russell, V S Green, D A Grayney, K B S Jarvis not bat.	

SAI. OF VOLUNTEERS: 173. 2nd.

Board faces protest over umpires

Nothinghamshire are to protest to the Test and County Cricket Board over the umpires' decision which cost them their hold on the NatWest Trophy.

Barry Duddleston and Chris

the players abandoned the holders' lead and fought back against Worcestershire at Trent Bridge on Friday, which Worcestershire won on fast scoring rate at around 4:30 p.m., after Phil Neale, the visiting batsman, scored 100 runs. Neale said he was very happy about his players fielding on a particularly wet part of the outfield.

But Reg Simpson, the chairman of the Nottinghamshire Cricket Board, said "it was an absolute disgrace. The area they were worried about was in no man's land where nobody would have been fielding and it was a disaster."

Nottinghamshire were

stranded on 74 for three off 20.3
overs, chasing Worcestershire's
60-over total of 285 for five.

RACING

ambition

rew Longmore

with third place, ahead of the
Scotsman, Eddie Irvine.

As Hill said after the race, this
season is just a stepping-stone
into F3000 and, he hopes,
Formula One. He has already
booked a Formula 3000 drive
for next year and the names of

Riquel, Warwick, Palmer and Mansell, all of whom graduated

Slightly further down the hierarchy, the talented young Scot, Allan McNish, aged 18, gave an impressive display in appalling conditions to take second place in the third round of the General Motors Lotus Euroseries, behind Henrik

RESULT: 15 laps, 44.54 miles: 1, D Hill (GB), Ralt, 22min 56.55sec; 2, G Bradburn (Aus), Ralt, 22:57.05; 3, J.J. Lehto (Fin), Ralt, 22:57.91; 4, E Irvine (GB), Ralt, 23:1.47; 5, R. Hockenfull (GB), Ralt, 23:9.76; 6, J. Bancroft (GB), Ralt, 23:11.11. Championship positions after 11 rounds: 1, Lehto, 21pts; 2, M. Connolly (GB), Ralt, 46; 3, Hill, 44.

and Graham, Co.

5

Senna wins but Mansell keeps word

By John Blunsden

Nigel Mansell was as good as his word. Long before the rain saturated Silverstone yesterday, he said that if the Shell Oils British Grand Prix turned out to be a wet race he would do his best to put Williams team on the victory rostrum for the first time this season.

His best turned out to be a brilliant performance which took his Williams-Judd through from eleventh place on the streaming wet starting grid to second at the chequered flag.

He finished 23.3sec behind the McLaren-Honda of Ayrton Senna, whose fourth victory this season matches the score of his team-mate, Alain Prost, and maintains the McLaren International team's unbroken run of eight Grand Prix victories this year. Prost, though, had a miserable race after a clutch problem away from the line caused him to become engulfed by half the field and almost blinded by spray. After slipping further down the order he retired on the 23rd lap and now finds himself only six points ahead of Senna in the title chase.

Third place went to Alessandro Nannini, whose Benetton-Ford survived two lurid spins as well as a long drawn out battle with Mansell with whom he exchanged places three times and became involved in several heavy moments when in heavy traffic his vision was hampered by clouds of spray.

It was a race in which being in front, free of the spray from other cars, was a decisive advantage during the early laps, and Gerhard Berger made good use of his Ferrari's

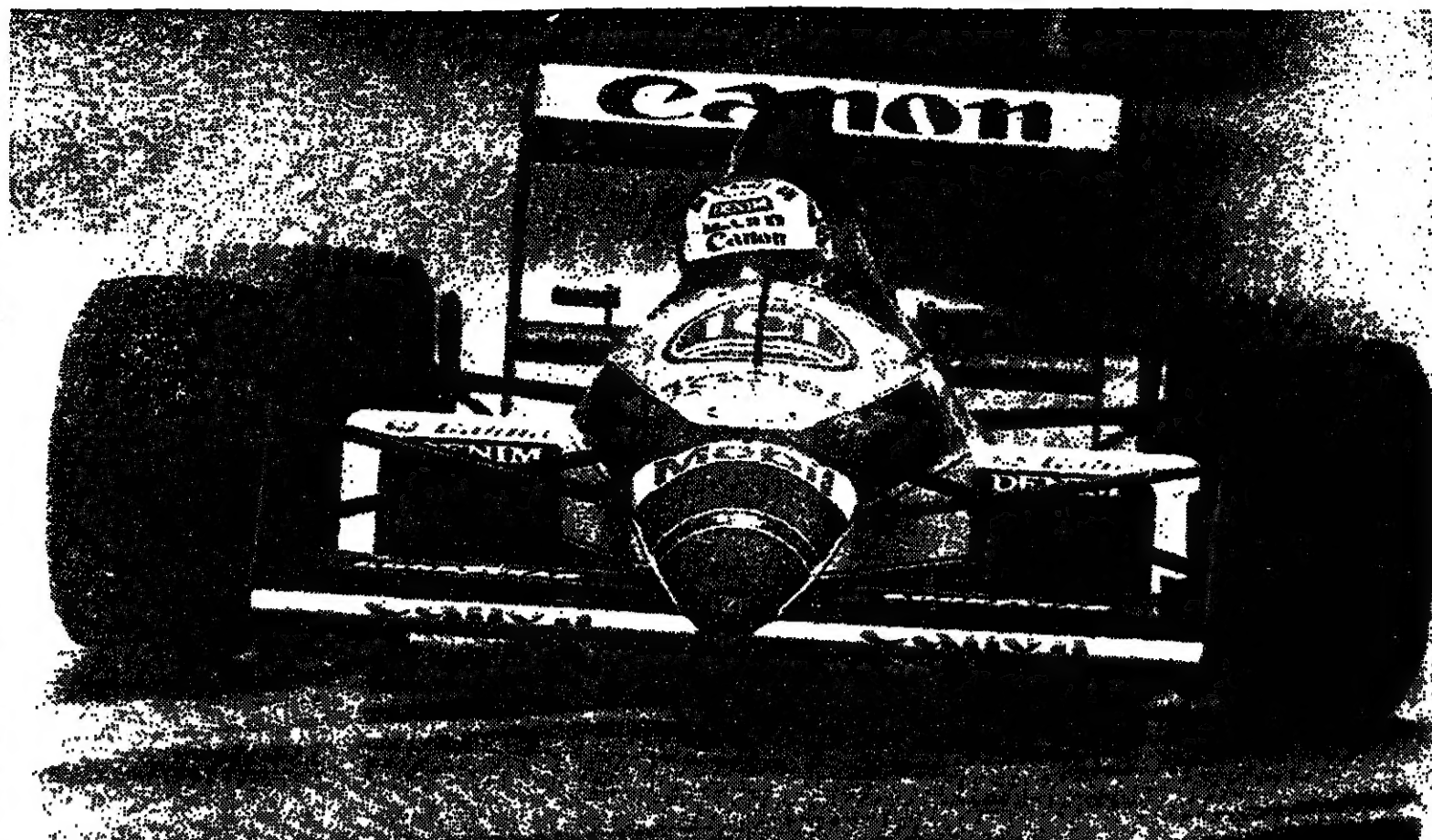
pole position to beat Senna to the first corner and hold him off for 13 laps. "Although I have driven in even wetter conditions here in my Formula Three days," said Senna afterwards, "the spray made life very difficult because in traffic, not only could you not see the cars ahead of you, but the driver in front couldn't see anyone behind him, either."

Once Senna went ahead the Ferrari challenge quickly faded. "I knew we were in fuel consumption trouble from about the fifth lap," said Berger afterwards. Although he held second place until lap 49, by then he was a full minute behind, and after being passed by Mansell, then dropping behind Maurizio Gugelmin's nimble and well driven March-Judd and Nelson Piquet's understeering Lotus-Honda during the next 10 laps, he seemed to be heading for sixth place on the last lap when his engine cut out in the run-in to the finishing line.

In the final seconds, he was overwhelmed by the Arrows-Megatrons of Derek Warwick and Eddie Cheever and the Williams-Judd of Riccardo Patrese, which was poor justice after a fine drive by the Austrian, whom Mansell will partner next year.

Michale Alboreto became the Ferrari "guinea pig" being called in from seventh place after 46 laps to change to slick tyres as the track dried, only to encounter more rain almost immediately afterwards and had to stop a second time to change back to wet tyres. He dropped out on the penultimate lap.

"Nigel produced a great



Power finish: Mansell heads through the spray into the runner-up place in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone yesterday (Photograph: Chris Cole)

performance," said Frank Williams from the pits. "But I think I was more nervous today than at any time in the last two years. The result was a just reward for everyone's patience and hard work."

Mansell, too, offered warm praise to his team, who made the major decision to react to conventional suspension between practice and the race. "I cannot thank them enough; without their hard work, which went on nearly all night, we wouldn't even have finished, let alone finish second. And the crowd, once again they were unbelievable — the reaction I got at the end you'd have thought I had won."

Despite McLaren's victory it was their toughest race this year, with cars which were

never really free of handling problems and which were marginal on fuel consumption, which meant that their turbo boost had to be lowered. "I don't think we did a very good job this weekend in terms of car set-up to a win was very satisfying. Ayrton did an excellent job," Ron Dennis, the team director, said.

Mansell's second place will be a tremendous morale-booster for his team, which has been hit hard by his impending departure to Ferrari. It will also please Thierry Boutsen, who retired yesterday, but was confirmed last night as Mansell's replacement for 1989 and 1990, when Williams will be using Renault V10 engines. For Mansell, too, the immediate future is looking rosy.

Warwick sticks to task

By Andrew Longmore

Derek Warwick, of Britain, kept up his fine record in the British Grand Prix, but this year he left it late. Having run in a steady seventh for much of the race in conditions he described as the worst he had known, Warwick slipped past a retreating Gerhard Berger on the last corner to win his ninth championship point of the year in sixth place.

"I paced myself because I knew it was going to be difficult with fuel," Warwick said. "When it started to dry out I wanted to come in for slick tyres but my pit crew told me not to and they were right because it started to rain again immediately. I've never ever

driven in conditions like those before, you couldn't breathe, let alone see. But it was worth it in the end."

Warwick, aged 33, now has a remarkably consistent record in his home grand prix. He has finished in the points in four of the last six British grands prix. Less happy with life was Julian Bailey, who brought the Tyrrell home in sixteenth place. "I was driving blind for the first two laps," Bailey said. "I found the car very difficult, it didn't give me any confidence at all and any time I tried to go a bit quicker I slid all over the place."

On lap 24, Alain Prost drove his red and white

McLaren into the pits, got out of the car and went home.

Quite simply, he had suffered enough; enough of the wet, of the indignity of being passed by no-hopers, of his car and perhaps just for a second or two, of the whole business of motor racing. But, being Prost, double world champion and the most successful racing driver in history, he was not frightened to admit that for once in his life he had given up.

"I was very afraid in the traffic in the first two laps. I had a bad start because of clutch problems. I stalled and was lucky to get started again. Formula Three report, page 38

RESULTS FROM SILVERSTONE

RESULTS: 1. A Senna (McLaren-Honda, 65 laps, 1hr 23min 16.507 sec, 194.140mph); 2. N. Mansell (Williams-Judd, 123.238.711); 3. A. Nannini (Benetton-Ford, 124.227.745); 4. M. Alboreto (Ferrari, 124.227.745); 5. T. Boutsen (Williams-Judd, 124.227.745); 6. R. Piquet (Lotus-Honda, 124.227.745); 7. E. Cheever (Arrows-Megatron, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 8. G. Berger (Ferrari, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 9. G. Hughes (Williams-Judd, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 10. S. Badoer (Benetton-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 11. J. Bailey (Tyrrell-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 12. G. Molteni (Benetton-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 13. G. P. L. (Benetton-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 14. G. P. L. (Benetton-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 15. G. P. L. (Benetton-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 16. G. P. L. (Benetton-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 17. G. P. L. (Benetton-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 18. G. P. L. (Benetton-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 19. G. P. L. (Benetton-Ford, 64 laps, 124.227.745); 20. G. P. L. 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